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CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PAUL GILLESPIE, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 2
PATRICIA BRESLIN, COMMISSIONER, ext. 4
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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January 11, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the December 28, 2004 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Election for a President and Vice President of the San Francisco Taxi Commission. [ACTION]
9. Hearing and Discussion of the Safety Report Present by Acting Executive Director from December 20, 2004. [DISCUSSION]
10. Discussion and Possible Action on a Contract Approval for the Taxicab Service and Availability Study. [DISCUSSION] [POSSIBLE ACTION]
11. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Ibrahim Alaeli	Nagi Mohamed Ali	Ralph D. Alves	Erdenebat Bayasgatan
Said Braiki	Abimael S. Brasil, Jr.	Brisley Brito	Jose Louis Andino Caballero
Roberto V. Cabral	Andy S. Chan	Marshall Childs	Toby J. Coates
Maria A. DaSilva	Valdeidio P. DaSilva, Jr.	Juscelino C. DeFreitas	Divanio M. DePaula
Joao Neves DeSouza	Nagjiner Singh Dhanju	Marcos A.P. DoPrado	Jesiel P. Dossantos
Steve E. Driggs	Hafed M. Dubaie	Dennis A. Earnshaw	Stephen T. Fulton
Beraki Ghebremichael	Gurinder S. Gill	William N. Gray	Sergey Grechko
Marc L. Greenberg	Don K. Grindell	Ednaldo F. Guimaraes	Abderraouf B. Haddah
Ernest M. Harrell	Frederick Hun	Duy M. Huynh	Ahmed M. Ibrahim
Zahid Iqbal	Henry D. Johnson	Bennett L. Jones	Ilia Kogan
Shiferaw T. Kollasie	Vladimir S. Kopysov	George Kukava	Anthony H. Lam
Kiet Minh Le	Steven Leung	Tin Ching Luk	Johnson Mac
Winter J. McHone	Mateus S. Medeiros	Tesfaye T. Mekonnen	Ahmed M. Mohmmed
Vinicios M. Moraes	Panha Mey	Ezra Mulugeta	Kevin D. Murphy
Aniss Naaim	Aminullah Nabizad	Jose E. Naves	Boris Okun
Claudivina C. Oliveira	Pheak Phann	Mariusz Pluder	German P. Prieto
Redouane Oualid	Scott C. Rand	Carlos E.F. Romero	Jose C. Franca
Pirsyed E. Shah	Samoual M. Sinada	Gagan Dip Singh	Sanjeev Singh
Howard A. Sisco	Sikandar A. Syed	Resham B. Tamang	Alexander Taran
Yerlan Torebekuly	Victor E. Trench	Frederick Verhoeven, Jr.	Vitaliy I. Vysochin

B. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Taxicab Medallion Holder permits to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Michael Sealey	994	Yellow Cab

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1.	Kamen George Kamenov	1054	Black & White Checker to Alliance Cab
2.	Andrew Martin Lindermann	1242	Worldwide Cab to Luxor Cab
3.	Wallace Lau	817	Regents Cab to Bay Cab
4.	Abraham Roth	9001	Yellow Cab to Bay Cab

D. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Revocation of Medallion Permit #207 held by Joseph Breall.

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NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the January 25, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
Bradley Newsham	*Melaku Girma*	*Max Cab Company*
	Alex Kaplan	

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Floro G. Asuncion	*211*	*Bay Cab to B & W Checker*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

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SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

January 11, 2005

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05 MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

January 11, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Gillespie; Breslin; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith

ABSENT:

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks, - Taxi Commission; Captain Ronald O'Neill, Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **ROLL CALL** - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 28, 2004 TAXICAB COMMISSION**

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok **RECUSED:** None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab driver 16 yrs., native San Franciscan:** After skimming over many a minutes, after you Commissioner's have given your approval, it is quite clear that, what I say is not always reflected accurately, in fact distorts and alters my intended points. So for the sake of keeping an accurate account of these meetings for the records, I would ask if possible, could you post the minutes in advance on the internet. So others like myself who are slow readers and who might not be able to attend every meeting. So you and others would have a chance to review and correct any un-intended erroneous errors, in an effective and timely manner, it that possible? Furthermore, I think it unfair to expect every driver to provide copies of their testimonies in order to insure that the minutes are accurate.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits. Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok **RECUSED:** None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He believes the hearing officer did not show sensititive to Mr. Lee an elderly driver who could not full-fill his driving requirement because of illness. He suggested dropping the case against Mr. Lee.

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B Taxi Medallion permits. Commissioner Paek seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok **RECUSED:** Gillespie

4C2,4 Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve 4C2 and 4 Color Scheme Changes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

4C1,3 Commissioner Gillespie motioned to continued 4C1 and 3 Color

Scheme Changes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Evelyn Poquez, Alliance Cab:** She informed the Commissioners that Alliance Cab Company was in the process of securing workers' compensation for 4C1 (Kamen George Kamenov).

4D Commissioner Paek motioned to rehear this item (the revocation of Joseph Breall, permit #207) on January 25, 2005. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-2

Joseph Breall, permit #207: He spoke on his own behalf.

AYES: Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith
NOES: Jackson, Gillespie

ABSENT:
None **RECUSED:**
None

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: 1) Spoke to the paratransit office regarding inquiry made by the Commission regarding taxi companies submitting paratransit invoices as part of the contract with MUNI/Paratransit Broker. She was informed there is nothing new, it is standard practice, and is part of the contract the broker has with MUNI. Any color schemes who have questions or are unable to full-fill this requirement, they should call the paratransit office (415) 351-7000. **2)** For your reference, she has submitted an updated neighborhood taxi stand list. DPT has begun installation of the tow away signs at the taxi stands. The request for a taxi stand at 18th and Castro Street will be heard on 1/13/05 at 25 Van Ness, Suite 345 at 9:00 a.m. **3)** Captain Tacchini stated there were no problems this weekend at the

Broadway Tunnel. The Broadway Tunnel will continue to be open on a trail basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab driver 16 yrs., native San Franciscan:** Thanked S.F.P.D. for allowing taxi drivers to make money. He states the Marina district deserves more than one 2 hours taxi stand zone. He believes this is a popular area. He states there is no taxi stand at Fillmore/Greenwich which is a popular area.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar for possible action **1)** Postponing all disciplinary hearings dealing with ADA. He suggested informing and educating all drivers about ADA. **2)** Rewriting or making correction to section 1090 of Article 16 (Regulations for Motor Vehicles for Hire) ordinance 562-88. He believes it contradicts itself. **3)** Making workers' compensation a requirement to do business in the City and County of San Francisco and at the airport for all cab companies. **4)** Getting rid of the gate cap. The cost to run a companies is becoming more prohibited. **5)** Requiring the people who bid on paratransit, bid the correct amount for cab companies do not have to subsidize.

Commissioner Gillespie: **1)** Informed the Commission if anyone had concerns or problems with paratransit they could air them at the paratransit meeting on Thursday, 1/13/05 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at Webster/O'Farrell St. **2)** Thanked Acting Director Castagnaro for sending out information to the cab companies about the Broadway Tunnel. The hybrid taxi event was postponed until February, he will inform the Commission of the reschedule date at the next meeting. **3)** Congratulated Michael Sealey on receiving his taxi medallion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He is concerned about statements made by the Commissioners. He hopes the trial weekend re-opening of the Broadway Tunnel could be extended for a couple of months. He explained the complications of the paratransit contracts. He states there is a question on whether a driver who is single shifting or business partner could collect claims from workers' compensation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He states that last week was horrible for drivers. The taxi stand signs at hotels have disappeared. He requested a representative from the Hotel Council come to a Commission hearing to discuss why there are no taxi stands at hotels anymore. He questioned why do doormen decide who can park in front of hotels. He states a lot of ramp taxis work the airport. The ramp taxis are like CNG cabs because they get front-of-the-line privileges and lower gate fees. He suggested that ramp taxis pick-up paratransit orders before being allow to do business at the airport. At the Hyatt Regency hotel there is a yoga convention. Wished everyone a Happy New Years.

· **Peter Witt, native San Franciscan:** My seven number one concerns, Commissioners, are you and who you represent "the public" and more specifically "drivers" whom are without a union have no retirement plan, no medical insurance, no job security, no vacation time and mostly don't speak English as a first language. Do you get the picture, because the snow job hears? Has no color. And ever since this Commission was formed, every driver representative has been a "honky" (white person). Do you get the picture, because you need contrast to get a clear picture and clarity? The white washing of our "Taxi Reform" by this Taxicab Commission is deployable and irresponsible. By widening the gap between drivers and owners. Disenfranchising working cab drivers to no end is not your job driver representatives. I would ask that the two driver representatives (Mary and Paul) give up there monopoly on this Commission, step down and let someone else roll the dice for the drivers.

· **Robert Cesana, PDA:** Drivers are still receiving drive away tickets for picking up passengers while double-park. He states the only way to pick up passengers in the downtown area is by double parking. He suggested an investigation be done to find out if permit holders are still paying for the white zones at hotels. He suggested a letter be sent to all K medallion holders informing them clearly of the current rules regarding ADA. He suggested the letter be made available in different languages.

· **Mark Gruberg:** He responded to Commissioner Smith's comments regarding getting rid of the gate cap. The gate cap was put in place because cab companies had been grouching taxi drivers for years. Drivers have been going through hard times for the past 4 years. He stated if cab companies need more money, he suggested reducing the amount the cab companies are paying their medallion holders. He believes it would be an insult to drivers to discuss gate fee reductions.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTION FOR A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO TAXI COMMISSION.

This item is being continued until the first meeting in March 2005.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He questioned why the election is occurring the first week in January. The Commission anniversary is the first week in March. He states that President Jackson has done a good job as chair of these meetings. He suggested more information about the agenda items be presented before the public speaks. He recommended a cab driver representative as the Commission next president.

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab driver, 16 years, native San Franciscan:** Speaking for myself, I'd like to see a President who can be attentive to the needs of both the drivers and the public not in that order, for it was the driver's and the public that "taxi reform" was enacted. In the form of a taxi task force, chaired by Mr. Gavin Newsom, the former taxi reformer. A good President will take in all the evidence and strike a balance, not one who will make discussion, solely base, on antidotal testimony. And who will not be affected with tunnel vision, or be impaired by the sudden loss of hearing. It is one thing to do the bidding of others and quite another to lead, by example. The talk here at this Commission comes in abundance, while your actions remain elusive. While, I'm hoping for the best, my only fear is more of the same.

9. HEARING AND DISCUSSION OF THE SAFETY REPORT PRESENT BY ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM DECEMBER 20, 2004.

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: She gave a presentation.

Inspector Farrell Suslow, S.F.P.D. Taxi Detail: He gave a presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab driver 16 yrs., native San Franciscan:** As I mentioned at the last hearing I felt the top lights (which should operate according to the law) is a "safety factor" and not just for convenience. Are there any questions Commissioners? You have proved once again that every Commissioner here thinks pride is more important then public safety. Culpable negligence and a failure of your fiduciary duty. Accountable only to the Mayor it appears. I have a small list of safety issues, but it's pretty obvious, efficiency does not matter here. I thought I'd start with the most obvious and easiest one that should have been address years ago. The top lights and by the way, which appears in the hard data that I've properly submitted to this Commission each and every year for the last seven.

· **Ruach Graffis, member of UTW and Instructor at the Taxicab Institute:** She submitted two letters from each organization. She suggested installing two separate door locks (front and rear). She states it would be a great help to have the debit card installed.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR THE TAXICAB SERVICE AND AVAILABILITY STUDY.

This item is being continued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· Peter Witt, Yellow Cab driver 16 yrs, native San Franciscan: First Commissioners have you read the taxi task force report that came out seven years ago? "Any of you.....no answer". Has any Commissioner here read the S.P.U.R. Report put out in 2000 or 2001? How about the Bruce Schaller's study about measuring taxi availability 2003 report? This is my study and this is the way you present it! I got a $180. Because my waybill was incomplete and illegible. Showed examples of incomplete/illegible survey turned in by Peter Witt in 2004. It would seem Commissioners that this Commission doesn't know to do with study, when it gets one. I would say this Commission is safely 10 years behind the times. The data I've produced and that you've ignored, is seven years old. When and if you produce just one it will be of little use without another that will take at least two years. By then I will have produced two more valid surveys or independent studies, that could be published.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

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1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the January 11, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Taxi Commission Driver Appreciation Awards Ceremony Honoring: PROMPTLY AT 6:45 p.m.
   a. Ann Bailey, DeSoto Cab
   b. Joe Ng, DeSoto Cab
   c. Tokunbo Solarin, Big Dog Cab
   d. Marcelo Silva, Luxor Cab
   e. Richard Sprang, Luxor Cab
   f. Rex Caponi, Town Taxi Cab
   g. Albon Wagener, National Cab
   f. Saulo Wanderly, National Cab
   g. Richard Ayon, National Cab
   h. Elmo Da Silva, Regents Cab
   i. Paul Lobel, Veterans Cab
   j. Essa Shartara, Veterans Cab
   k. Reynaldo Magno, Yellow Cab
   l. Yuan Li, Yellow Cab
9. Discussion and Possible Action on a Contract Approval for the Taxicab Service and Availability Study. [DISCUSSION]
10. Discussion of possible Taxi Stand locations. [DISCUSSION]
11. Adjournment

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Taxicab Medallion Holder permits to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Bradley Newsham	914	Metro Cab

B. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Ramp Medallion Holder permits to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Melaku Girma	9035	DeSoto Cab
2.	Alex Kaplan	9062	DeSoto Cab

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
*1.	Kamen George Kamenov	1054	Black & White Checker to Alliance Cab
2.	Wallace Lau	817	Regents Cab to Bay Cab
3.	Floro G. Asuncion	211	Bay Cab to B & W Checker

**REQUEST WITHDRAWN*

D. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Max Cab Company.

E. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Revocation of Medallion Permit #207 held by Joseph Breall.
2. Approval of a 90-day suspension without pay for Medallion Permit #819 held by Carl Lee. The suspension is set to begin 2/1/05 and end 4/30/05. Mr. Lee must complete his part of the ADA process by the end of his suspension, if Mr. Lee fails to complete his part of the ADA process, his permit #819 will be subject to revocation.

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TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
1. Levon Danilyan		
2. Manuel L. Nunez		

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Reginald H. Saw	*1126*	*Regents Cab to Fog City Cab*
2. Fortuna Transportation Inc.	*72, 73, 74, 78, 79*	*Bay Cab to Luxor Cab*
3. Winston Wong	*798*	*Bay Cab to Luxor Cab*
4. American Cab	*81, 82, 83*	*Bay Cab to Luxor Cab*
5. Khalil Jaser	*1181*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*

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Taxicab Commission

January 25, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1

PAUL GILLESPIE, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 2

PATRICIA BRESLIN, COMMISSIONER, ext. 4

MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3

MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6

1/05 MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

January 25, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Gillespie; Breslin; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks, - Taxi Commission; Captain Ronald O'Neill, Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 11, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Breslin, Paek
RECUSED: None

President Jackson requested to hear the Taxi Commission Driver Appreciation Awards Ceremony

8. TAXI COMMISSION DRIVER APPRECIATION AWARDS CEREMONY

Arthur Jackson, President Taxi Commission: As you know, our drivers are an integral part of the transportation of San Francisco. They do a great job and they get us where we are going, all the time. He thanked President Peskin for coming to honor our best drivers.

Aaron Peskin, President Board of Supervisors: When people ask me to describe the job of being a supervisor, I let them know our actual job is to pass legislation, or rescind legislation or amend legislation, but that the most important part of our job is to give people credit and their due, where they deserve it. I think there is no job that is more important for a mayor or a Board member or Commissioners to honor and

thank those folks who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, whether it's as employees of the city or folks who help make San Francisco the great city that it continues to be. Certainly the unsung heroes in the Taxi Industry are very deserving and these 14 individual in particular. I salute you Commissioners for taking the time to show that level of care in giving folks their proper due.

Recipients of the Driver of the Year award:

a. Ann Bailey, DeSoto Cab

b. Joe Ng, DeSoto Cab

c. Tokunbo Solarin, Big Dog Cab

d. Marcelo Silva, Luxor Cab

e. Richard Sprang, Luxor Cab

f. Rex Caponi, Town Taxi Cab

g. Albon Wagener, National Cab

f. Saulo Wanderly, National Cab

g. Richard Ayon, National Cab

h. Elmo Da Silva, Regents Cab

i. Paul Lobel, Veterans Cab

j. Essa Shartara, Veterans Cab

k. Reynaldo Magno, Yellow Cab

l. Yuan Li, Yellow Cab

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

4A Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve 4A Taxi Medallion permit. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek **RECUSED:** McGuire

4B Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve 4B Ramp Taxi Medallion permits. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He congratulated the drivers who received awards. He requested that the paratransit broker notify the disabled community of DeSoto Cab Company becoming a major player in the ramp taxi services. He requested the ramp permit holders be reminded of their requirements and suggested they be monitor to ensure their participation in the ramp program.

4C1 Request Withdrawn (Kamen George Kamenov)

4C2 Applicant requested a continuance (Wallace Lau).

4C3 Commissioner McGuire motioned to continue 4C3 Color Scheme Change (Floro G. Asuncion). Mr. Asuncion must sign an affidavit affirming single shifting on permit #211. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

4D Commissioner Breslin motioned to approve 4D Max Cab Company provided he submits his actual Workers Compensation policy by February 20, 2005. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

4E1 **This item is being continued until 2/8/05.**

4E2 Commissioner Breslin motioned to approve the suspension for permit #819, held by Carl Lee. Commission Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-1

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, Smith **NOES:** McGuire

ABSENT: Paek **RECUSED:** None

Mr. David Green, Attorney: Spoke on behalf of Mr. Carl Lee. Mr. Lee responded to questions from the Commissioners.

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: She announced the public hearing for the Commission's application for a taxi stand at 18th and Castro Street. The hearing will be held on Friday, January 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m., City Hall, room 416. Additionally, this meeting will hear the request to rescind the existing taxi stand at 420 Castro Street. She urged anyone wishing to express support for this taxi stand to attend the hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** Thanked Acting Executive Director Castagnaro for getting the Commission application to public hearing. He believes the taxi stand will be located 72 feet from the corner of 18th and Castro St. The posted hours are 6:00pm to 6:00am. He thanked the Traffic Engineering staff for eliminating the bus stop in front of the O'Farrell Theater and making it into a white zone. He is going to request keeping the disabled spot in its original place. He hopes everyone can show up and support this change.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar for possible action **1)** the Essential Eligibility Requirement. The industry is losing driver because of the lack of good shifts. He states that medallion holders are taking the best shifts. **2)** Using a four-year vehicle with on more than 80,000 miles. He states giving the companies the opportunity to purchase cheaper vehicles will generate more money because business is down.

Commissioner Kwok: 1) He requested inviting Marc Soto, Paratransit Broker, to the next Commission hearing to give a report of the service quality in taxi and ramped taxi program. Also, it would be a great opportunity for the disabled community using the paratransit program to attend to air any concerns or unhappiness with the

services.

Commissioner Gillespie: 1) Thanked Acting Executive Director Castagnaro for the city health plan for taxicab workers information. He would like to follow up with her on that issue and volunteered his services so he can give a report to the Commission on the progress. 2) He volunteered his services regarding producing a pamphlet on an issue that came out at the safety hearing on proper conduct and sexual harassment. 3) Announced the hybrid taxi public event will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. Encourage the Commissioners and anybody who supports this program to attend. He noted the passing of Kathleen Harrington who appeared many times before this commission and who he served with on the Taxi Task Force.

Commissioner Breslin: It is truly with a very sad heart that she is asking to adjourn tonight's hearing in the memory of a very great friend, very much a leader in the community, Kathleen Harrington. Kathleen Harrington played an incredible role in the city in all aspects. She was instrumental in helping to form the Taxi Commission, member of the Taxi Task Force, President of the Board of Appeals, and a strong advocate for the hospitality community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He feels a tremendous loss to city government and to the hospitality industry of Kathleen Harrington. Ms. Harrington was becoming more sensitive to how the taxi industry laws worked. He believes it is important that medallion holders, who are more experienced drivers, are out there driving, even if it means that a less experienced driver doesn't drive that particular shift.

- **Carl Macmurdo:** He appreciates Commissioner Smith requesting a hearing regarding Essential Eligibility Requirement. The requirement was passed on October 8, 2002 and now thing are different. He believes that the EER states that even if your disabled you have to drive. He suggested writing a letter to the permit holders on what the conditions and rules are for applying for ADA. He suggested getting rid of the Essential Eligibility Requirement.

- **Ruach Graffis, UTW:** When proposition K was passed in 1978, it made it possible for working driver to get a city owned permit for free. The only stipulation was to drive. Now the driving requirement has been reduced to 800 hours a year, that's 80 shifts a year. She states yes the industry is losing a few new drivers but not because the permit holders are driving. It is because the gate fees are too high and the permit holder lessee has not been reduced and the driver income has gone down. She states the industry do not need higher gate fees, do not need more cabs but do need permit holder driving their cabs.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Gratchia Makarian, B & W Checker:** He spoke in support of Ruach Graffis's comments. He believes the cab companies are interested in having workers' compensation because they can penalize drivers with higher gates (even if the driver

is unable to drive), they can control drivers working hours and they want insurance to protect themselves from the drivers (which is understandable). Except cab companies are trying to use workers' compensation as an excuse to increase the gates. He suggested a cap on gate fees, on long-term leases, and on medallions. He believes this will allow all parties an equal opportunity to participate in the business. He states that non-medallion holders are working full-time without making minimum wage. He states that independent contractors who manage their own business are not obligated to buy workers' compensation.

· **Taso Zografos, S.F.T.A.:** He extended and expressed his condolences to the friends and family of Kathleen Harrington. He informed the Commission of a meeting with Bond Yee, DPT and Acting Executive Director on February 10, 2005, to discuss white zones. Informed the Commission that GTU is moving forward with issuing the smart card. All drivers who wish to access the airport will be required to have a smart card for payment of processing fees. He suggested inviting Alice Sgorakis to the Commission hearing to discuss the smart card. SFTA is very concerned about illegal cabs operating in San Francisco city limits. SFTA will look into this issue further and present data to the Commission at a later date.

· **Barry Taranto:** He was concerned about an email from an Arrow Cab driver, who states he can't make ends meat. He states "time are tough" and taxi drivers have to compete with limousines, illegal cabs and also the police officers that are making it difficult for drivers to do their jobs. He states that taxi stand signs are disappearing. He states the Commission Office should be notified when a taxi stand sign is removed. He suggested a refresher course be given to new drivers after a few month of driving, as part of their training. Medallion holders are not suffering from the lack of business, suggested reducing the gates during the slow months or fluctuating based upon the cab driver income. He feels something suspicious regarding the color scheme changes of nine permits leaving Bay Cab to Luxor Cab.

· **Mizan Rahman:** He requested the Commission help with a family matter, which is affecting his driving. He is the holder of permit #1113. His nephew is trying to hurt him physically and verbally on the streets because of a dispute over property in Bangladesh. He provided a letter to the Commissioners. He is trying to protect himself and livelihood.

· **Jim Gillespie, representing SFTA:** He is aware of Mr. Rahman's situation and is trying to assist him. He believes there are 150 permit holders files at the Commission office that are request accommodations. He has tried to monitor the non-driving medallion holders but it is very difficult. His suggestion is to halt any future revocation hearing at the current time. He believes there are a lot more problems than the 150 files.

· **Carl Macmurdo:** He expressed his condolences to the friend and family of Kathleen Harrington. He responded to comments made regarding disability law. The Dr. Katz's policy evolved after years of struggling and arguments. Some of the case the Commission sent forward were overturned by the Board of Appeals. Mr. Epstein was unaware that cases on disability had been overturned by the Board. Commissioner Smith has requested a re-write on MPC 1090 since the city has an obligation to revisit that section in light of ADA laws because it was written in 1988 prior to the establishment of ADA laws.

· **Mark Gruberg:** He has attended most of the Board of Appeals hearing regarding permit holders, revocations and suspensions. The Board of Appeals is not a policy-making body unlike this Commission. There is no clear policy regarding disability. We have driving as an Essential Eligibility Requirement, which is a policy of this Commission. He suggested until there is a clear policy he does not feel the BPA

will revoke permits of any disabled people. He states the Commission and Board of Supervisors (if necessary) have to move toward a clear and defined policy on disabilities.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR THE TAXICAB SERVICE AND AVAILABILITY STUDY.

Mr. Jimi Harris, Taxi Commission: Gave a brief presentation and answered questions from the Commissioners.

The deadline for the Commissioners to submit their recommendations is February 15, 2005.

10. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE TAXI STAND LOCATIONS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He believes the problem is not to install more taxi stands, but to enforce the current taxi stands. He has called numerous times to DPT regarding violations and very little is done. He states there is a problem at the Marriott Hotel with cars being parked in the taxi stand.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. in the memory of Kathleen Harrington.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
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MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

DOCUMENTS DEPT.
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February 8, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance

105 2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes for the January 28, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

5. Staff Report

6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.

7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

8. Hearing and Approval of Taxi Commission Budget Fiscal-Year 2005-2006 Proposed Budget. [DISCUSSION][ACTION]

9. Adjournment

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Mohamed Abalil	Azkar Ahmed	Sandro Araujo	Waltemir Arruda
Wellington Assis	Maung Aung	Flausino Barbosa	Mardin Barrera
Adrien Bazoungoula	Anthony Bennett	Jacques Berchten	Sidney Borges
Erica Berman	Yonas Birru	Sean Boyle	Norris Calcuttawala
William Canright	Edward Carson	Emerson Carvalho	David Chan
Gui Chang	Jaeduek Chi	Givaldo Cotrim	Aurelio DaSilva
Roberto DaSilva	Sandro DeAlmeida	Manuel Dea	Marcio DeOliveira
Wesley Dias	Vicente DeMatos	Ivaldo DeMoreas	Celso DeOliveira
Jose Diazmorales	Jorge Espinoza	Elvin Echevarria	David Fernandez
Anthony Finocchiaro	Eddie Francia	Armen Gasparyan	Djamal Gharfara
Deb Gurung	Muhammad Hamza	Seifu Hailemariam	Antone House
John Hulton	Masashi Imajo	Caludio Inacio	Mousa Iwais
Zafer Iyik	Imran Javed	Oasem Kazimi	Latif Khan
Efrem Kifleyesus	Myong Kim	Diallo Lawson	John Lee
Edgar Littleton	Leticia Maia	Marco Maluf	William McCandless III
David Myint	Vinh Nguyen	Isamel Maldonado-Carrion	
Cuong Nham	Victor Nieves	Danny Norway	Neila Nunes
Marco Oliveira	Rodney Phann	Roberto Pires	Vahid Piriyev
Edward Richter	Joel Rodriguez	Gueddar Said	Slim Salem
Nerivaldo Santos	Sergey Sergeev	Nicholas Setiawan	Ashwani Sethi
Faisal Shaikh	Qaiser Shaikh	Jyotindra Shakya	Ravi Shori
Ranjodh Singh	Aung Soe	Daniel Spina	Roshan Subba
Tizazu Tessema	Petr Teteriatnikov	Kesavan Thulasi	Francisco Vargas
Jeffrey Velez	Stephen Watson	Zekaryas Weldeselassie	Zeray Weldezghi
Alonzo Williams	Jehad Zawaideh	Andy Zhang	

B. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Taxicab Medallion Holder permits to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Levon Danilyan	9075	DeSoto Cab
2.	Manuel L. Nunez	9074	Luxor Cab

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1.	Reginald H. Saw	1126	Regents Cab to Fog City Cab
2.	Fortuna Transportation Inc.	72, 73, 74, 78, 79	Bay Cab to Luxor Cab
3.	Winston Wong	798	Bay Cab to Luxor Cab
4.	American Cab	81, 82, 83	Bay Cab to Luxor Cab
5.	Khalil Jaser	1181	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
* 6.	Floro G. Asuncion	211	Bay Cab to B & W Checker

* ***Submission of a notarized letter submitted by Mr. Asuncion stating single shifting on permit #211.***

D. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Revocation of Medallion Permit #207 held by Joseph Breall.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the February 22, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
	1. Michael Helms	
	2. Kayhan Mashhoon	

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Hossein Khoshroozeh	*981*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
2. Yousef Oskoui	*328*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
3. Austin B. James	*825*	*Regent Cab to Sunset Cab*
4. Francis Chunsik Kim	*964*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
5. Ok Kyun Chung	*1019*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
6. Steven B. Gee	*369*	*Regents Cab to Max Cab*
7. Lesllie Chiang	*630*	*Regents Cab to Max Cab*
8. Manjit Singh	*1291*	*B & W Checker to Luxor Cab*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 554-7750, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 554-7750, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

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The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall, Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 234, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-5163 or by e-mail at Donna_Hall@ci.sf.ca.us

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Taxicab Commission

February 08, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

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MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6

05 MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

February 8, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Gillespie; Breslin; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Jackson; Paek

VICE PRESIDENT GILLESPIE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:35 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks, - Taxi Commission; Captain Ronald O'Neill, Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 25, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, McGuire, Smith NOES: None

ABSENT: Jackson, Kwok, Paek RECUSED: None

Vice President Gillespie requested item #5 be heard next.

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: Reminded the Commissioners that the PC&N bid rating forms are due in the office on 2/15/05. At the February 2, 2005 Ramp Taxi Working Group meeting, the issue of color scheme attendance was raised. There were only representatives from three of the nine color schemes that have ramp taxi permits in attendance. The Working Group is a vital component of San Francisco's Paratransit Taxi service where important issues pertaining to paratransit services are discussed. She urged color scheme management and ramp taxi medallion holders to attend these meetings to get insight into the working of this system, as well as ramp medallion holders in order to better serve these communities. These meetings are held every three months, the next scheduled meeting is for May 4, 2005. As the meeting date approaches, she will make an announcement at our Commissioner hearing. The Taxi Commission office is schedule to move from City Hall

to 25 Van Ness, Suite 420. There is no confirmed date for the move yet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** Wished President Jackson a speedy recovery. He questioned if the new office location was going to be appropriate. He states that parking at 25 Van Ness is atrocious. He suggested holding an emergency discussion on this issue because the move is happening too fast.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar for discussion and/or possible action **1)** the re-write of Municipal Police Code Section 1090. **2)** the repeal of the Essential Eligibility Requirement. **3)** using a four-year old vehicle with no more than 80,000 miles. **4)** He announced a meeting that will be held on February 22, 2005, 501 Cesar Chavez, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting is regarding the rules and regulation of weights and measures. 5) the new limousine rules and working with D.P.T.

Commissioner Breslin: She announced that this week she will be meeting with Acting Director Castagnaro and D.P.T. to discuss the white zone usage by limousines and taxi's and how that all interplays. She will be obtaining a list from Acting Director Castagnaro to review AB2591 and how that should be implemented and what all the questions are.

Commissioner Gillespie: He announced the rescheduling of the hybrid press conference. It will be on February 22, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. He invited all the Commissioners, the Acting Executive Director, the companies who are participating and the Department of Environment to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He addressed the issue about the Essential Eligibility Requirement. He states you would have to repeal proposition K in order to get rid of the Essential Eligibility Requirement. He agrees with the rule regarding 4-year old vehicles with 80,000 miles.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Ivana Kirola:** She expressed her concerns regarding the quality of ramp taxi services. She called Yellow Cab for services and do not get a response. She states that taxi companies are receiving funds but not providing ramp services. She believes that accountability has always been a problem.

· **Taso Zografos, S.F.T.A.:** He discussed the obsolesce and possible time for the reforming of Proposition K. He believes a lot of time has been spent on how to enforce the rules of Prop. K. He suggested making Prop. K more workable to the conditions that exist today in the industry. He states Prop. K has become a limiting factor in our ability to look forward and to make cabs a more viable transportation resource within the city.

· **Robert Cesana:** Thanked Commissioners Breslin and Smith. We are trying to press ahead and get a handle on this legislation. He states the industry does not want a fight it is much better if we all work together and talk with the hotels.

· **Barry Taranto:** He states that illegal cabs are back with a vengenence. He states that Mr. Bokhari who is facing revocation of his medallion and A-card is picking up passengers in the city. The Glass Kat is back in service and will be doing a lot of events, so they will be needing a lot of cabs at 520 Fourth Street. The Castro Street cab stand was approved but for only two spots, he believes it will be problems because many cabs line up there. The PUC was prevented from dismissing the rule making order that define pre-arrangement. He suggested getting the ALJ to look at this issue again.

· **John Nakis, Yellow Cab:** He displayed/read an email that stated they are taking fares by letting limo drivers pay a commission to the hotel doorman. He appreciated them trying to get the limousines out of the white zones. He asked is this corruption or bribery going to stop.

· **Thomas George-Williams:** He suggested that the Commission revisit the waybill issue. The rules state that the waybills must be completed at the end of your shift with the company. He states that at the airport out of town taxi companies are offering a 20-30% discount to passengers and that their taxis are not inspected. He states when you type in taxi services you get a lot of limousines services, not one cab company.

· **Mark Gruberg:** Informed the Commission that the gift fair is in town at various locations. Informed the Commission of his personal experience. He suggested a system that could expedited approval for a temporary taxi stands.

· **John Lazar, President Luxor Cab:** He announced that he has been elected Chairperson for the Ramp Taxi Working Group. He had questions for Ivana Kirola. He suggested that people should have an option of choosing their payment options of paper paratransit or the debit swipe card. He stated people are renting town cars with no liability insurance and no TCP#'s. He states if anyone is having a problems or complaints with the ramp program to call him at 282-1224 ext. 201.

· **Ruach Graffis, U.T.W.:** She spoke on the same issue as Thomas George-Williams concerns about waybills. The regulation question is quite confusing. Because one sentence says "you have to have the waybills filled-out, signature and # of hours worked at the commencement of the shift". The next sentence says "you have to file the waybill at the end of the shift with the company". Suggested the entire section be revisited.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A Driver Public Passenger Permits. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek **RECUSED:** None

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B Taxi Medallion permits (Levon Danilyan and Manuel L. Nunez). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek **RECUSED:** None

Commissioner Smith requested to sever 4C6

4C1-4 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C1 through 4C4 Color Scheme Changes. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. 4C2, 3 and 4 Color Scheme Changes of Corporate Permits must have a sworn statement of agreement to change color schemes.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek **RECUSED:** None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** Informed the Commission that 4C2, 3, and 4 are long-term leases. He believes the corporation is very little with the day-to-day operations of these medallions in terms of the drivers and the vehicles themselves. He hopes that Luxor Cab Company is sensitive to the fact that these guys have been in the industry

for a long time.

4C5 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C5 Color Scheme Change (Khalil Jaser). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek **RECUSED:** Gillespie

4C6 Commissioner Smith motioned to continue 4C6 (Floro G. Asuncion) until Mr. Asuncion is able to attend the next Commission hearing. Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek **RECUSED:** None

4D APPROVAL OF FINAL DECISION BY ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECOTR REGARDING RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED BY THE TAXI COMMISSION HEARING OFFICER

Commissioner Breslin motioned to approve the revocation of permit #207 held by Joseph Breall. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek **RECUSED:** None

Sergeant Vince Simpson, SFPD-Taxi Detail presented the case on behalf of Taxi Detail.

Mr. Joseph Breall presented to case on behalf of himself.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Dan Hind, President National Cab:** He states that although it has not been formally acknowledged for people who operate within offices of major cab companies, even small ones, to keep those medallions, they do even though are operating a full-time job. He believes that Mr. Breall should be entitled to an exemption and requested the Commission to hold off on making a decision. He states that Mr. Breall is important to the operation at National Cab.

· **Mark Gruberg:** He wanted to note that there are five commissioners here tonight. He states if Mr. Breall were to prevail here, he would need a unanimous vote. He requested the Commission to continue this case until there are at least six commissioners available.

8. HEARING AND APPROVAL OF TAXI COMMISSION BUDGET FISCAL-YEAR 2005-2006 PROPOSED BUDGET.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the proposed budget. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Robert Cesana:** He emphasized the importance of the budget for the police department because the need for enforcement of limousines.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PAUL GILLESPIE, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 2
PATRICIA BRESLIN, COMMISSIONER, ext. 4
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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February 22, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the February 8, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Hearing and Possible Approval of Taxicab Hubcap Advertising . Presentation by Mary Pat Holt and Ian Klassen of AdFleet. [POSSIBLE ACTION]
9. Hearing and Possible Approval of a Resolution Regarding the Public Utilities Commission's Opinion Issuing General Order 157-D Implementing Assembly Bill 2591. (Discussion) [POSSIBLE ACTION]
10. Adjournment

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Ramp Taxicab Medallion Holder permits to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Kayhan Mashhoon	9033	Luxor Cab
2.	Michael Helms	9058	Luxor Cab

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Hossein Khoshroozeh	981	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
2. Yousef Oskoui	328	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
3. Austin B. James	825	Regent Cab to Sunset Cab
4. Francis Chunsik Kim	964	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
5. Ok Kyun Chung	1019	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
6. Steven B. Gee	369	Regents Cab to Max Cab
7. Leslie Chiang	630	Regents Cab to Max Cab
8. Manjit Singh	1291	B & W Checker to Luxor Cab
9. Floro G. Asuncion	211	Bay Cab to B & W Checker

C. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval to reinstated the Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permit #084903 held by Mr. Mohammad Tajamal.

D. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of a two-day suspension of Medallion #1028 held by Alexander Beresnev.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice
The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the March 08, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
		Union Cab

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Semyon Kaplun	*1018*	*United Cab to Luxor Cab*

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The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall, Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 234, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-5163 or by e-mail at Donna_Hall@ci.sf.ca.us

Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Donna Hall or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317; web site: sfgov.org/ethics.

WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

February 22, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1

PAUL GILLESPIE, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 2

PATRICIA BRESLIN, COMMISSIONER, ext. 4

MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3

MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6

MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

2/05

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

February 22, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Gillespie; Breslin; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Ronald O'Neill, Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 8, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, McGuire, Paek **RECUSED:** None

President Jackson requested item #8 and #9 be heard next.

8. HEARING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF TAXICAB HUBCAP ADVERTISING.

This item is being continued for further review.

Ian Klassen and Mary Pat Holt of AdFleet gave a presentation.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

9. HEARING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S OPINION ISSUING GENERAL ORDER 157-D IMPLEMENTING ASSEMBLY BILL 2591.

Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve sending the resolution to the Public Utilities Commission's regarding the opinion issuing general order 157-D implementing Assembly Bill 2591. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Mark Gruberg, U.T.W.:** He explained the need for this resolution. In 2002, the CPUC instituted a proceeding known as rule-making, it was to deal with the definition of pre-arrangement of transportation by charter party carrier, including limousines. Right now the only thing the law says about pre-arrangement is that it has to be by written contract or by telephone. UTW is requesting CPUC to go ahead and pass the new rules about examining waybills but to keep it open and take more testimony and eventually pass further rules about the definition of pre-arrangement. The meeting will be held on February 10th at 505 Van Ness, 10:00 a.m.

· **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He states if the PUC amends the rules regarding pre-arrangement, that the PUC establish penalties for breaking their laws. He suggested if limousines or limousine companies persistently break these rules, they should lose their PUC licenses.

· **Ruach Graffis, U.T.W.:** She questioned what Robert Cesana was referring to because, the new law AB2591 gives strong penalties, fines up to $5,000 and the ability to tow a vehicle on the spot. She requested that San Francisco create a bureau of civilian inspectors attached to the Taxi Commission, dedicated to enforcing laws to illegal limousines and unlicensed taxis. Ask the PUC to adopt new rules clarifying and strengthening the definition of pre-arrangement, assign more investigators, to pass strong rules with tough penalties for inspection of charter party waybills, enforcement of white zones and to stop limousines from parking in front of the baggage claim at the airport soliciting passengers.

· **Carl Macmurdo:** He states that doormen at the hotels are escorting

passengers to limousines instead of taxis. Requested the Commission take action against these types of arrangements which cannot be defined as pre-arrangement.

· **Barry Korngold:** He wanted to add his support for the approval of the resolution requesting PUC to make clearer rules about what is considered pre-arrangement and cracking down on the limousine situation.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Ramp Taxicab Medallion permits). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek
RECUSED: None

Commissioner McGuire requested to sever 4B7 (Leslie Chiang)

4B1, 2, 4, 5 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B1, 2, 4, and 5 (Color Scheme Changes). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek
RECUSED: Gillespie

4B3, 6, 8, 9 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B3, 6, 8 and 9. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek
RECUSED: None

4B7 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C7 (Leslie Chiang). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. Motion fails 3-2.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Smith **NOES:** Kwok, McGuire

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek
RECUSED: None

Commissioner Smith motioned to continue 4C7 (Leslie Chiang) pending notification to applicant to attend the next Commission hearing. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek
RECUSED: None

4C Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C (Mohammad Tajamal). Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek
RECUSED: None

Sergenant Vince Simpson, S.F.P.D.-Taxi Detail: Presented the case for reinstatement of Mr. Tajamal's Driver Public Passenger Vehicle for Hire.

4D APPROVAL OF FINAL DECISION BY ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REGARDING RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED BY THE TAXI COMMISSION HEARING OFFICER.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the two-day suspension of

medallion #1028 held by Alexander Beresnev. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Jackson, Paek
RECUSED: None

Inspector Farrell Suslow, S.F.P.D.-Taxi Detail: Presented the case on behalf of Taxi Detail.

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: She announced that the Taxi Commission office has moved to 25 Van Ness Avenue, Room 420. The new phone # is 503-2180.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Breslin: She congratulated Vice President Gillespie and Commissioner Smith for the wonderful work they did in getting the hybrid vehicle recognized and for the press conference. The city is aware that there is currently a series of continued boycott threats against certain hotels. She states that potential taxi riders are being lost to other transportation agencies. She suggested writing letters to the mayor, the editor and union heads to stop the boycott. She suggested a discussion at the next hearing on what this Commission can do to protect the industry it serves.

Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar for discussion **1)** bringing the disciplinary hearings back to the Commission. **2)** Using a five-year old vehicle with 80,000 miles. He states these vehicles should be cheaper to purchase. **3)** A seven-year life to hybrid vehicles the same as the London taxi. This is an incentive for clean air vehicles. **4)** The same wrap usage for hybrid vehicles as the London taxi. **5)** Requested an update on how notifying the medallion holders on their rights to ADA exemption.

Commissioner McGuire: Requested to calendar bring the disciplinary hearing back to the Commission. She believes it is taking too long for a decision to be submitted. She suggested using the funds for enforcement of limousines and out-of-town taxis. She questioned Commissioner Breslin as to why and who to write letters to.

Commissioner Kwok: He supports Commissioner Breslin's request. He requested inviting Muni and the Paratransit Broker to the Commission hearing as soon as

possible.

Commissioner Gillespie: There was terrific coverage by the media this morning at City Hall for the hybrid press conference. He thanked the mayor for attending, acting director Castagnaro for her hard work and the cab companies who purchased these vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Mark Gruberg:** He commented on Commissioner Breslin's request for a hearing on the hotel boycott. There was not a great outcry from the Commission when the hotels locked out their workers. He believes that this Commission should not get involved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Thomas George-Williams, UTW:** He requested the Commissioners to testify at the PUC meeting. It will be held on Thursday (2/24/05), the State Building (505 Van Ness Ave), at 10:00 a.m. Limousine drivers should have to fill out waybills just like taxi drivers.

· **Fred Brandt:** He suggested that taxi zones be painted in three colors (green, yellow and white). The only place this can be found anymore is at Pier 39. He states it is difficult to know where to park at when the curbs are painted all white. He announced a new association that was formed called the Bay Area Taxi Drivers Association. They will introduce themselves at the next Commission hearing. A representative will be at the airport taxi lot tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. to answer questions about the association. He believes it is disturbing why Ms. Chiang is being asked if she has ever driven a taxi.

· **Michael Helms:** He thanked the City of San Francisco for allowing him to work in a job that brings him in daily contact with the disabled community. He states that the disabled community not only survived but prevailed over health problems and mobility restrictions that would break the spirit of a majority of people. Thanked the Commission for giving him a ramp permit and allowing him to work in a job that gives him inspiration.

· **Robert Cesana:** He submitted questions to the Commissioners for clarification by the city attorney. He requested that any driver who is having trouble complying with the driving requirement should contact the Taxi Commission office to obtain forms for accommodations. He stated this is no need for additional cabs. He suggested fining permit holders for violations, but keep the cab on the streets. He suggested less presents from Taxi Detail at the hearings and requested more enforcement of limousines in the white zones.

· **Taso Zografos, S.F.T.A.:** He announced that SFTA and PDA have put together a presentation that San Francisco is a transit first city and taxis are an

integral part for the DPT meeting that will be held tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. The SFTA attended the Federal Transit Administrator workshop in Washington, D.C. to discuss having a grant requested for San Francisco to have a taxi transit program. SFTA is planning to invite stakeholders to attend a one-day workshop to discuss potential reforming of Proposition K. SFTA is planning to execute two surveys, one to drivers and the other to customers.

· **Mark Gruberg:** United Taxi Workers has put together a committee of drivers to take action about the limousines, out-of-town taxis, and unlicensed taxis. The protest will take place on 3/1/05 at 1:00 p.m. in front of City Hall, he urged all interested parties to attend. UTW would like to see from this Commission strong rules on the inspection of limousine waybills. He suggested a inspector that will be devoted and dedicated to inspection of limousine waybills.

· **Carl Macmurdo:** Taxis from the City of Oakland are allowed to queue up at the San Francisco airport to get a return trip. He suggested contacting the City of Oakland to have a reciprocal arrangement where if a San Francisco taxi arrives in Oakland, they could pick up a fare back to the city.

· **Gratchia Makarian, B&W Checker Cab:** He states that many cab drivers do not understand the meaning of single shift. He recommended a resolution clarifying the meaning of single shifting to be distributed to all the cab companies to be relayed to the drivers.

· **Ruach Graffis:** The U.T.W. has been working for years to get cab driver city mandated healthcare. She requested anybody who has sympathy for Local 2 members, who are striving to keep their healthcare, they can write to the San Francisco Labor Council at1177 Franklin Street.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
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KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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March 8, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the February 22, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Hearing and Possible Approval of Legislation Requiring Worker's Compensation Coverage for Taxi Drivers. [POSSIBLE ACTION]
9. Hearing and Discussion on Disciplinary Hearings. [DISCUSSION] [POSSIBLE ACTION]
10. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Election for a President and Vice President of the San Francisco Taxi Commission. [ACTION]
11. Adjournment

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Miguel Acuna	Issam Ahmad	Jimarrette Array	Jose Barbosa
Doreen Best	Foad Bony	Kevin Byrd	Ladislau Carvalho
Naji Chaaban	Hsinhao Chiang	David Chorney	Simon Chow
Marco Goncalves	Josafa DaSilva	Ram Dhalkal	Hayder Feleyeh
Ghiass Ghauss	Mustapha Guettar	Tequila Hallarbee	Walter Hanley
Daniel Henry	Charles Hughes	Mamdoh Ibrahim	Kenneth Joe
John Lauricella	Joon Lee	Paul Love	Antonin Mastalir
Michael Mendoza	Mohammad Mustafa	Vazgen Nazari	Nebiyu Naod
Thet Oo	Kyung Park	Luciano Rodrigues	Derar Samara
Marcio Santos	Steven Shih	Rabin Shuyel	Hakim Siaci
George Sibbett	Laudelino Sobrinho	Serge Souvannarath	Marina Souza
Tewelde Tesfazion	James Timmons	Win Thant	Huu Tran
Joao Uchoa	Athanasius Uwakwe	Iain Wallington	Dwyan Williams
Abdullah Yaacoobi	El Mostafa Zriki		

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Leslie Chiang	630	Regents Cab to Max Cab
2. Semyon Kaplun	1018	United Cab to Luxor Cab

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Union Cab Company.

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TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Ali Bastani	*769*	*Veterans Cab to Luxor Cab*

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

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Taxicab Commission

March 08, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1

PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4

PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2

MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3

MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6

MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

March 8, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Gillespie; Breslin; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neill, Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 22, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Breslin, McGuire, Paek **RECUSED:** None

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger permits). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Breslin, McGuire, Paek **RECUSED:** None

Vice President Gillespie requested to hear 4C next.

4C Commissioner Gillespie motioned to tentatively approve 4C (Union Cab Company). Union Cab Company must comply with the following before beginning operation: 1) provide color photos of the color scheme; and 2) provide proof of a contract for dispatch services. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Breslin motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Changes). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He believes permit #630 as been out of service for the last two weeks. Regents Cab Company has not allowed the permit holder to operate. He suggested if a color scheme change is continued that the original company allows the permit holder to continue to operate the medallion until the color scheme change is approved. He believes permit #630 is not a long-time cab driver because he has never seen her driving.

- **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He reminded Barry Taranto that hearsay doesn't mean a thing. He stateD that drivers are always asking him if he has been on vacation because they haven't seen him driving.

4. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: The Police Department has requested that in order to facilitate the safe transport of patrons, that taxis queue up at the crosswalks of Sacramento & Front Streets, Columbus & Green Streets, and Columbus & Powell Streets to pick up passenger from the St. Patrick's Day celebration. The celebration will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Will inform all dispatch companies of this notice.

President Jackson: He requested when members of the public review the commission packets and need additional information, to make an appointment with Commission staff to discuss their concerns.

Sergeant Vince Simpson, SFPD-Taxi Detail: In addition to Acting Director Castagnaro's announcements, the street closure will occur on Green Street @ 10:00 p.m. and on Front Street @ 9:00 p.m. Central Station asked that taxicab come by an hour before the street closures to try to get the event goers out of the area.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar for discussion and possible action on **1)** using five-year old vehicles with 80,000 miles. **2)** getting rid of the driving requirement for medallion holders. **3)** re-writing or correcting section 1090 of Article 16. 4) a review of the non-compliance pickup list for ramp permits. **5)** discussion with DPT regarding installing cab stands in and around BART Stations.

Commissioner Gillespie: Requested to calendar for discussion the non-compliance of ramp pickups. Many drivers are listed as having zero pickups. What are the Commission options in terms of either disciplining or revoking permits of ramped taxi drivers who are not fulfilling the requirements for a ramp permit. He suggested a meeting with the non-compliance ramp drivers to discuss the rules for having a ramp permit.

Commissioner McGuire: She was sorry to announce that the PUC meeting regarding the limousine legislation went nowhere. The PUC suggested working with Mark Leno's office to redefine the terms of pre-arrangement, to set a time limit.

Commissioner Breslin: She supports the request made by Commissioners Gillespie and Smith regarding reviewing the non-compliance of ramp permit pickups. She requested sorting by medallion numbers.

Commissioner Kwok: The Paratransit Broker provides the Commission with the ramp permits non-compliance spreadsheet. Requested a presentation from Muni and the Paratransit Broker to better understand why the program is not working.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barry Taranto: He believes the admonishment for non-compliance by ramp permit holders is not enough. He believes that ramp drivers are at the airport not servicing the disabled community. He believes the spreadsheet needs to be revamped. He states the experienced medallion holders should continue to drive to teach the inexperienced drivers.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **John Nakis:** He thanked Taso Zografos for the meeting with DPT. He discussed AB2591, the limousine bill. He believes there has been no activity to enforce this bill.

- **Ruach Graffis, UTW:** She updated the Commissioners and the public about the protest and information about the limousine problems. They went to the Board of Supervisors and requested to hire a civilian inspector to oversee the problems. The PUC meeting was superlatively useless. She suggested if anyone wants to get involved in protesting the illegal limousines to call 864-8294.

- **Barry Taranto:** He suggested there should be a policy against anyone profiting from their medallion while in prison. He suggested passing resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to pass the limousine legislation as soon as possible. He feels it was unfair that some Commissioners were not invited to attend the DPT meeting.

- **Taso Zografos, S.F.T.A.:** He commended Carl Macmurdo and Robert Cesana. The four recommendations were for DPT work to target limousines, provide taxi drivers with a form of citation relief, formulate a plan to increase taxi stands, collaborate with SFTA on a citation program. SFTA is developing a program that will have driver information, customer complaints, and DMV history. In 2006, SFTA is proposing that every taxi will have a type two swipe card.

- **Ivana Kirola:** She wanted to reiterate the importance of ramp service. She called Luxor Cab Company for a ramp taxi and had to wait over an hour. She states that she calls Yellow or Luxor because they have a higher number of ramped cabs and that should mean you have a higher rate of success in getting a ramped cab. She will be attending the Commission hearings until this problem is remedy.

- **Francis Fahy:** He requested that the Commission help cab drivers. He states that limousines are not regulated and are acting like taxis. He suggested having an ombudsman to advocate on behalf of the taxi drivers.

- **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He states it is not his job to reprimand Barry Taranto but he does not want to hear about allegations. Martha Stewart made millions while she was in prison. At noon today there were no ramped taxis at the airport. Yellow Cab waybills will now have a printed bar code and can be viewed online. The object for this is for a discussion about owners not having to drive their own medallion. He suggested a fingerprint time clock to ensure that everybody who is supposed to drive is driving.

- **Howard Green:** He states he has been coming to the Commission meetings for a long time. At the Commissioner hearings on February 8 and 22 he was approached by a union organizer in a attempt to get him to join. He requested the Commission to review those hearing because he wants this kind of recruitment to stop. He hopes the union representative respects his decision not to join.

- **Mark Gruberg:** He questioned which union Mr. Green was referring to. He informed the Commission that UTW plan on attending public hearings regarding limousines. Informed the Commission that if any drivers were interested in attending the following meetings on Tuesday, March 15th: Airport Commission, at 9:00 a.m. and MTA, at 4:00 p.m. The Veteran's corporate permits are still pending and need resolving.

· **Fred Brandt:** He read from the letter submitted to the Commission by Nate Dwiri from Yellow Cab. He thinks the letter is referring to transferability and that Proposition K is outdated.

· **Stephen Reimer:** He informed the Commission that Union Cab Company does not have a contract for dispatch services with Yellow Cab.

· **Lt. Jeanne Schlotz, SFPD-Taxi Detail:** She informed the Commission that non-San Francisco taxis are not allowed to queue up at the San Francisco airport unless they have pre-arranged loads only and they must pay a fee.

8. HEARING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF LEGIALATION REQUIREING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR TAXI DRIVERS.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the workers' compensation legislation. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-1.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** Kwok

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Francis Fahy:** Insurance and gas prices are twice as high. Requested the Commission help to share the expense for workers compensation. He suggested the Commission provide a definition for "who is an employee". He suggested a moratorium.

· **Barry Taranto:** He agrees with the proposal but expert advice is needed from a State Fund representative. He believes you cannot force someone to pay for a policy when they may or may not be covered. Suggested making workers' compensation affordable for everybody.

· **Richard Hybels, Metro Cab:** He states as a property owner in San Francisco, he is tired of paying for other people injuries. He questioned how long is the City of San Francisco going to let people put this money in their pocket at the taxpayer's expense, it's obscene.

· **Gratchia Makarian, B & W Checker:** Workers compensation has been talked about a lot. He suggested clarification for the definition of " independent contracts". He states there are many individual permit holders who manage their own business independently. He states there is no law in the State of California that requires permit holders to have workers compensation, but he understands it is important for all drivers to be covered.

- **Mark Gruberg:** He urged the Commission to support this legislation. He suggested a separate filing be done upon the passage of this legislation. He states there is a major cab company that is totally out of compliance with their obligation to provide workers compensation for their drivers. He recommended after the legislation is passed, the Commission have to look at those companies that are out of compliance and start applying penalties. He suggested incentives and disincentives that would encourage the industry to get workers compensation.

- **Keith Raskin, Worldwide Cab:** He believes the only workers compensation available to him is State Fund and it is very expensive and he does not see any benefits. He asked if there were any alternative to State Fund. He suggested the industry coming together to form an investment group that would pool their resources and benefit everybody or to be able to get some kind of return on the money that is invested.

- **Robert Cesana:** He congratulated the Commission for moving forward with workers compensation. He states that Yellow Cab is a cooperative and if they have a short fall in their insurance fund, they make it up by assessing their members that is why Yellow Cab is self-insured. He states there needs to be a level playing field and if the industry is going to have workers compensation than all drivers should be covered.

9. HEARING AND DISCUSSION ON DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS.

This item is being continued until March 22, 2005 Commission hearing.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTION FOR A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO TAXI COMMISSION.

Commissioner Kwok motioned to approve Arthur M. Jackson as President of the Taxi Commission. Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-0

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve Patricia Breslin as Vice President of the Taxi Commission. Commission Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-1

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** Gillespie

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
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MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

DOCUMENTS DEPT.
MAR 18 2005
SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY
03-13-05P02:15 RCVD

March 22, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

/05

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the March 8, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Presentation on Hybrid Vehicles by John James of S&C Ford [DISCUSSION]
9. Hearing to consider whether the Taxi Commission should hear the disciplinary cases. (continued from 3/8/05) [DISCUSSION] [POSSIBLE ACTION]
10. Discussion on illegal limousines and hearing to consider adopting legislation regarding limousine waybills. [DISCUSSION] [POSSIBLE ACTION]
11. Adjournment

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

John Burdette	Cristian Cardoso	Alex Francis	Abdulwase Hadi
Derek Holcomb	Hussein Ibrahim	Mahendra Kc	Yasser Khalifa
Jaroslavs Kudrjasovs	Chakib Mellouki	Ronald Morgan	Adel Moussa
Farzad Nejat	Jeries Rantisi	Andre Reed	Rajinder Singh
Anderson Souza	Andrey Tsvirko	Stefanie Tufono	Tien Van Vo

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Ali Bastani	769	Veterans Cab to Luxor Cab

C. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Citation for Violations by Black & White Checker Cab Company.
2. Approval of Citation for Violations by Town Taxi Cab Company.
3. Approval of Revocation of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle Permit, held by Sozer Akat.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the April 12, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
		Union Cab Dispatch Company

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Alan Lee	*9066*	*Fog City to Yellow Cab Co-op*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

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Taxicab Commission

March 22, 2005

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MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2/05

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

March 22, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neill, Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 8, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger permits). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Change). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4C1 This item is being continued.

4C2 Commissioner McGuire motioned the approval with the following: 1) One-year probation, inspections every six-months, and pay all citations. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek **RECUSED:** Gillespie

4C3 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the revocation of 4C3 (Sozer Akat). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek **RECUSED:** None

Mr. Sozer Akat spoke on his behalf.

5. STAFF REPORT

There was no staff report.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar for discussion and possible action on **1)** putting into service five-year old vehicles with 80,000 miles. This will help small companies offset some of their expenses. **2)** A seven-year life for new hybrid vehicles. **3)** Calendar a meeting with DPT to discuss cab stands in front of BART stations. In addition, the ticketing of cabs in white zones and in/out privileges at bus zones. **4)** Revising Municipal Police Code section 1090.

Commissioner McGuire: Requested staff reports on **1)** any corporate permits where there has been a recent 10% transfer of shares. **2)** Medallions of deceased holders. Requested the date of death and the date the medallion was returnedf to Taxi Detail. **3)** Requested the Commission to review the guidelines for deceased medallion holders (particularly medallions 203, 455, 456, 457, 458 and 459). **4)** Review of the Gate cap. Requested that the staff tell the Commission how the averages are calculated and if everyone is in compliances with the Gate cap. **5)** A list of which companies are holding security deposits and who are requiring security deposits from drivers. What amount and what are the terms of the contract. **6)** She requested an investigation into companies charging $100.00 to potential drivers for letter of intent to hire.

Commissioner Breslin: She tagged on to Commissioner Smith's remark about meeting with DPT to review white zones and bus zones. She added to the list truck zones. Asked whether truck zones could act as white zones when not in use.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab, 16 yrs., native San Franciscan:** He states cab companies have held on to deceased drivers' medallions and the cab company and/or family are making a profit. The bus zone is an excellent idea. Drivers should not have to drive around in circles. He states taxi zones should be designated and put on a map, and handed out at the airport to benefit both customers and drivers. Yellow Cab does not require a security deposit anymore.

- **Barry Taranto:** Commissioner McGuire raised an important issue that the corporate permits have been ignored. He states that Winston Wong passed away about two weeks ago but his permit has not been returned to the city. Suggested holding a hearing to find out why the family gets to keep it. He believes that taxis should not use the truck zones in order to keep trucks from double parking. He asked if the Commission would ask the hotels why the cab stand signs have been removed.

- **Ruach Graffis, UTW:** She states the cab stand at candlestick park is too far away from the entrance. She suggested moving the cab stand back to Gate B to allow cabs to cue up.

- **Robert Cesana:** He suggested a full debate on the subject of candlestick and on cab stands. He stated that when the police decided that the only way to get into Candlestick Park was to exit at Third Street and come around in a circle, it caused cab drivers to no longer go there. He states that there is no incentive for drivers to go to these places.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He hopes Taxi Detail will send their usual letters to the cab companies and the cab companies will share the procedures with the drivers because cab need to cue up at Second Street. Requested Taxi Detail to go out to one home stand because of limousines stealing taxi fares. The 4th Street bridge is out of service for another year. At the S.F. Airport non-San Francisco taxis are taking their fares. Suggested creating a policy on whether taxis should accept credit cards. A bike lane is being created on Potrero Street which may create problems as an alternative to the freeway. Suggested better dissemination of information regarding illegal taxis.

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab, 16 yrs., native** San Franciscan: He suggested that the driver representatives on the Commission should step down. He displayed complaints from customers regarding top lights (on cab #'s 705 and 688). He requested to see the number of complaints from the past seven years. He believes that his survey is pure and untainted.

8. PRESENTATION ON HYBRID VEHICLES BY JOHN JAMES OF S & C FORD.

John James of S&C Ford: Gave presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Mark Gruberg:** He states the hybrids are terrific. Commissioner Gillespie deserves a lot of credit. He states the hybrids have many advantages as taxis over CNG vehicles. There are strong incentives to use hybrids. It is a serious matter if drivers have to pay higher Gate fees for the hybrid. Suggested an investigation into this matter, because it is a violation of the Gate Cap ordinance.

· **Ruach Graffis:** The city position is 15% of all fleet vehicles should be low emission by the year 2008. She states that some people cannot get into S.U.V.'s. Thanked Commissioner Gillespie for all his hard work. Ford is looking into creating a stretch Crown Victoria, she hopes it become a low emission vehicle.

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab, 16 yrs., native** San Franciscan: He questioned how much will the hybrid cost and is it going to be subsidized by an higher increase in gate fees? He states that saving the environment is a great idea, but these vehicles cost more. He believes the industry isn't gaining anything. He believes there are plenty of avenues to take to get cleaner air.

9. HEARING TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE TAXI COMMISSION SHOULD HEAR THE DISCIPLINARY CASES.

Henry Epstein, Hearing Officer: Gave presentation of disciplinary procedures.

Commissioner Kwok motioned the approval to continue with the Hearing Officer with the following: To refine and facilitate the process and review within six-months. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-1.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Smith **NOES:** McGuire

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He thought the reason this item was brought up was because the industry had enormous issues with spending money on police enforcement on limousine and illegal cabs. He states that "hearsay" has been accepted at the Commission but not with the hearing officer. He believes the Commission is using the hearing officer without laying down all the rules, because half the rules aren't there and because there is no rule about ADA.

- **Mark Gruberg:** He supports the hearing procedures. Mr. Epstein's reports seem to be extremely thorough and well considered. He stated the time of the Commission is valuable. He states to hold a disciplinary hearing during a Commission hearing would send the meeting deep into the night. He states that those who are accused have many more rights under the current procedures because there are three levels of decisions. Urged to continue continued with the hearing officer.

- **Barry Taranto:** He offers a different perspective from the previous speaker. He has attended some of the disciplinary hearings. He suggested amending the guidelines and making sure the deadlines are meet. He feels the longer the cases are dragged out the more complicated they become. He states the Board of Appeals takes public comment and it should be allowed at the disciplinary hearings.

- **Peter Witt:** He feels that Barry Taranto was refining the process. He doesn't feel the Commission is legally trained. He states this Commission has proven to be a rubber stamp in the shape of a lame duck. He reminded the Commission of the Welsh and Lazar hearings. He agrees with all three speakers.

- **Sozer Akat:** He states that he has had no disagreement with the hearing officer. In fact, he has never met the hearing officer.

- **Ruach Graffis, UTW:** She remembers when the Commission used to hold the disciplinary hearings. Some cases are embarrassing to the drivers because anyone that gets channel 26 can watch the cases on television. She likes the fact that the

hearings happen as hearings and not in the public venue here. She feels like with three levels of oversight that there is plenty of time for public comment and whatever else that is needed. She suggested keeping the hearing officer.

10. DISCUSSION ON ILLEGAL LIMOUSINES AND HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTING LEGISLATION REGARDING LIMOUSINE WAYBILLS.

Sergeant Vince Simpson, SFPD-Taxi Detail: Gave a brief overview of a presentation he gave to the Police Commission on March 9, 2005.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve adopting legislation regarding limousine waybills. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Peter Witt:** He was happy to hear the report. It has been a while since enforcement against limousine or taxicabs has taken place. In 2003, he submitted his report, which he plans on updating to be used as a database for SFPD. He displayed regular limousine violators. Requested to see a report on limousine violators.

- **Robert Cesana, PDA:** He congratulated Sergeant Simpson and Deputy City Attorney Owen on preparing the document. He questioned whether the administrative fines would be placed into the general funds, or go to the police to enforce the regulation.

- **Mark Gruberg, UTW:** Thanked Sergeant Simpson and Taxi Detail for the increased enforcement. He urged the Commission to forward the legislation to the Board of Supervisors. This proposed ordinance would implement the provision of the new state law AB2591 that allows cities to inspect limousine waybills. He suggested civilian officers and civilian aids at the airport with the same authority. He was pleased that section 1187.1 was added, because it would give the Commission the authority to impose administrative penalties.

- **Barry Taranto:** He thanked staff for preparing the legislation and proposed ordinance and for Taxi Detail for increasing enforcement. He suggested educating the police officers on how to handle the problems with limousine solicitation in the North Beach area. He suggested sending a resolution to M.T.A. requesting enforcement of the white zones and fine or take away the white zones.

· **Carl Macmurdo:** Cab drivers are being cheated out of their income from limousines, town cars and out-of-town taxis. Thanked Taxi Detail and Deputy City Attorney Owen for legislation.

· **Captain Thomas O'Neill, SFPD-Taxi Detail:** He wanted to address Mark Gruberg's suggestion regarding civilian enforcement. He stated some violations are misdemeanors, criminal offenses as opposed to parking violations. He stated there would be a lot of ramification if there was civilian enforcement because they would be putting themselves in harm's way.

· **Nathan Dwiri, Yellow Cab Co-op:** This is his 40th year of involvement with taxicabs. He states there is nothing that goes in San Francisco that does not happen in other localities, but now the police has gotten involved. He states Yellow Cab appreciates Taxi Detail enforcement of illegal taxis.

· **Ruach Graffis, UTW:** She stated that United Taxicab Workers and Taxi Association spearheaded this new bill. She states that finally things are changing.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

April 12, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

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1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the March 22, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Discussion on San Francisco Municipal Police Code Section 1090. [DISCUSSION]
9. Adjournment

25 Van Ness Avenue, Room 420, San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 503-2180 * Fax (415) 503-2186 * email: sftaxi.commission@sfgov.org * www.sfgov.org/taxicommission

Taxicab Commission Agenda
Regular Meeting
April 12, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Fauze Abdelnur	Daniel Ancheta	Aamir Asghar	Mehdi Bougarradh
Arkadi Boyko	David Cable	Seth Calander	Fauze Camapum
Alexandre Carvalho	Solomon Cheru	Rusheen Cox	Leonard Cross
Beniam Diro	Mikhail Ermakovich	Elisangela Galhardo	Beyen Ghebremedhin
Leonid Goncharov	Sandra Khoo	Sai Kwei	Celio Leao
Paulo Lopes	Boris Levitas	Evandro Maciel	Zeleke Mariam
Flavia Mesquita	Luiz Militino	Archie McKay	Hafiz Ouda
Robert Parramore	Gary Perez	Vania Pinheiro	Nathan Poindexter
Martin Poon	Mario Renteria	Alan Rosenlicht	Leif Ryge
Wael Saleh	Mario Duran	Dennis Santos	Lloyd Stinson
Jonathan Thomas	Jinghua Tian	Allan Trinidad	Nikolai Vaysershteyn
Todd Vu	Albert Watson	Brokke Webb	

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Alan Lee	9066	Fog City to Yellow Cab Co-op

C. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Citation for Violations by Black & White Checker Cab Company.

D. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Union Cab Dispatch Company.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice
The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the April 26, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

REQUEST TO REMOVE APPLICANTS FROM THE TAXICAB/RAMP TAXICAB WAITING LIST.

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 554-7750, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 554-7750, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities may call Sonya Banks at (415) 554-7750 to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall, Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 234, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-5163 or by e-mail at Donna_Hall@ci.sf.ca.us

Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Donna Hall or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317; web site: sfgov.org/ethics.

WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

April 12, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1

PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4

PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2

MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3

MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6

MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

105

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

April 12, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neill, Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

2. **ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 22, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.**

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion with a correction of the date #3 on page 1.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek, McGuire
RECUSED: None

4. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger permits). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek, McGuire
RECUSED: None

4C Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the recommendation of the hearing officer for 4C (Black & White Checker Cab Company). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

Sergeant Vince Simpson, SFPD-Taxi Detail: He gave a brief presentation of the case.

Gratchia Makarian, Black & White Checker: Answered questions from the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barry Taranto: He suggested reviewing the rules that require shift changes to occur at the company, and cabs that are not in service that must be parked at the company. He suggested taking seriously the rules regarding up-to-date and properly filled out driver rosters, storage of waybills and insurance. He suggested not singling out only a few cab companies for these types of violations.

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Change). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: Gillespie

4D **Motion 1:** Commissioner McGuire motioned to continue 4D (Union Cab Dispatch) until further clarification. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion fails 3-3.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire **NOES:** Breslin, Kwok, Smith

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

Motion 2: Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4D (Union Cab Dispatch). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. Motion fails 4-2.

AYES: Breslin, Smith **NOES:** Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

Motion 3: Commissioner Gillespie motioned to continue Union Cab Dispatch Company provided a representative from the paratransit broker office attend the meeting for clarification and legislation is prepared on changing the policy regarding paratransit. Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

Inspector Farrell Suslow: Answered questions from the Commission.

Me Truong, Manager of Union Cab: Answered questions from the Commission.

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: On April 13, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. a meeting will be held at the S.F. Airport Mezzanine Conference Rm. A to brief taxicab companies on the upcoming vehicle inspections. The inspections will be conducted May 1st through September 30, 2005 and vehicles will be inspected during their companies' designated months. To schedule appointments for inspections, please call SFPD Ground Transportation Unit at (650) 821-3610. The airport is proposing charging taxicabs an inspection fee for each vehicle, which would be implemented in May 2006. A representative from G.T.U. will be at the upcoming Commission meeting to discuss to proposed rates in depth. The 1095 forms are due in the Commission office no later than May 13, 2005. We ask that permit holders who submit their forms in person to come to the office between the hours of 9:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m. As a

reminder, the Taxi Commission office is no longer located at City Hall, we are at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Rm. 420. Joseph Breall's case has been continued and will be heard by the Board of Appeals on May 18, 2005. On March 25 there was a hearing to rescind part of the taxi zone at the Hilton Hotel (397 O'Farrell St.), however DPT did not post signs at the correct location. On May 6, 2005, this item will be reheard.

Inspector Farrell Suslow, SFPD-Taxi Detail: There were two letters in tonight's packets. The first letter deals with removing deceased applicants names from the waiting list. There is an item under the "notice section" on the agenda that the Commission will hear at the next hearing it will include the names of the deceased applicants to be removed from the waiting list. This is 1 of 3 ways a person can be removed from the waiting list. In the future, periodically there will be names submitted for the Commission approval to be removed for the waiting list. The other letter deals with the five medallions holders that are deceased. Taxi Detail has a list of when the permit holders passed away, when Detail was notified, and when the company was notified. The next 5 applicants from the waiting list have been notified. The 6th permit holder is not deceased but surrendered his medallion for personal reasons. The 7th permit holder has not be confirmed as deceased yet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He states that DPT held a hearing about the taxi zone at the Hilton Hotel without proper notification. He encouraged everyone to attend this meeting on April 29, 2005, Rm. 416 at City Hall. He believes there action is going to allow more curb space for limousines. He recommended creating a temporary green zone for permit holders will be able to park their vehicles and enter 25 Van Ness to filled out their 1095 forms because there is very little available parking. He requested to know the applicants that are going to be remove how high were their names on the waiting list. He questioned why there are no applicant's names scheduled on the agenda for permits.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Gillespie: He announced that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission asked him to be a presenter at an all day meeting on Monday, May 9, 2005. It is the first time a regional body have taken up taxi issues and there will be three subjects discussed 1) service to seniors 2) paratransit and 3) the last mile haul and how taxis can assist people with subsidies getting back and forward to jobs. These three brochures were developed by the paratransit broker office; 1) Rider's guide to paratransit 2) ADA access 3) Ramp Taxis, which are very helpful. The brochures are available for pickup at the paratransit office (1449 Webster St.) or by calling 351-7000 or downloadable at sfparatransit.com. He requested a hearing on the Interactive Kiosk that has gone into service and whether or not they are meeting federal safety standards. He believes the Kiosk was sold to the industry falsely. The Kiosk's are mounted with iron brackets into the floor of the backseat.

Commissioner Jackson: He requested that staff prepare from the audio a transcript of the Commission approval of the Interactive Kiosk installation process. He requested that staff send a letter to BART indicating the taxi industry interest in installing taxi stands at every BART station.

Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar for discussion **1)** cab stands in front of BART stations, **2)** Giving the hybrid vehicles seven-year life and one-year as a spare, **3)** Municipal Police Code 1165 relationship with MPC 1080, **4)** Essential Eligibility Requirement, and **5)** for paratransit to develop the correct form for ramp taxi's effectiveness. He wished a Happy Birthday to President Arthur Jackson.

Commissioner McGuire: Requested a hearing and possible action on reviewing the Commission rules regarding corporate permits. Requested to explore the possibility of establishing administrative penalty for failure to report a permit holder's death in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Kwok: Requested these items be agenized for the 1st meeting in May: **1)** No color scheme should change their address without proof of having an available parking space, site or alternative location approved by the Commission, **2)** No color scheme should change their radio dispatch company (from one company to another) without proof of worker's compensation insurance for their drivers and employees upon approval of the Commission, **3)** No medallion holder should transfer his or her permit (from one company to another) without proof of worker's compensation for their drivers. Those who pay for the owner gate fee and getting proof of having available parking space for the driver to change the shifts, **4)** The color scheme must submit a written declaration saying that the color scheme has an available parking space for new cabs, in process of transferring to the new company, and **5)** Look into penalties for companies who fail to return medallions to Taxi Detail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He is glad Commissioner Gillespie brought up the Interaction Kiosk. The newspaper articles that he read did not say anything about the effect the Kiosk will have on driver's ability to do their jobs. He believes 200 cabs are to much for a pilot program. He states the Essential Eligibility Requirement should not be eliminated because the industry needs experienced drivers. He questioned what happened to the Veteran's settlement?

- **Mark Gruberg, UTW:** He spoke on Commissioner Gillespie comments. The Kiosks are significantly worsening the working conditions of drivers. Drivers are forced to listen to hours of the same commercial messages. He states that drivers testified against the Kiosk but their testimony was disregarded. He suggested a real independent look be taken on how the Kiosk is operating.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He believes the paratransit issues are largely the Commission's fault, because the Commission made the taxi companies

comply with the regulation stating all taxi must accept paratransit scrip. When the paratransit broker said they would not deal with companies with less then 30 cabs, the Commission did nothing at that time. He believes if every cab has to take paratransit scrip and the city has to redeem it and if they don't they should sue.

· **Taso Zografos, SFTA:** SFTA met with DPT and DPT will reinstitute and reprogramming the hand held citation devices to identify cabs that are issued citations, by color scheme companies and by cab numbers. The SFTA is recommending calendaring an item to raise meter rates a nickel every 1/6 mile segment and 25cent per drop. This will help drivers temporarily while fuel prices are high. He commended Commissioner Gillespie for the hybrids and suggested providing a incentive program to encourage cab companies to buy hybrids.

· **Barry Taranto:** He believes SFTA is alienating the DPT meeting. He believes this type of action makes it difficult to get things done in the industry because SFTA keep doing things on their own without trying to get everybody involved in the meetings. There are two problems with small companies: 1) they do not have spares, and 2) passenger service. He recommended creating brochures to be placed in taxis informing passengers of what legal and illegal taxis are.

· **John Nakis:** He addressed the problems of illegal operating limousines. He states the problem is getting out of hand. He displayed photos of limousines that park anywhere they like. He states at the Moscone Center cabs have to park around the corner, this is why conventioneers take limousines because they believe there are no cabs around.

· **Stephen Reimers, Yellow Cab:** He states that SBC Park has a design problem because the first taxi stand is pass the ballpark. He SBC needs a curb cut to allow cabs to come in and using 2nd Street for cabs and buses only before and after games. He recommended cabs and buses only - in and out lanes at SBC Park.

· **Joseph Fleischman:** He offered his support to the Commission in their efforts to get every cab company in San Francisco to carry workers' compensation. Cab drivers need to be covered in cases of accidents.

· **Buzz Brooks, DeSoto Cab:** He states that gas prices are at a historic high right now. Requested that the Commission study the idea of adding a fuel surcharge to the meter. He agrees with Taso Zografos' comments.

· **Spanky Woods, National Cab:** In 1993, he put his name of the waiting list for a medallion. He had concerns regarding the letter he received from the Commission. He requested further clarification.

8. DISCUSSION ON SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL POLICE CODE SECTION 1090

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He has concerns with the changes because he is not sure if

adverse discipline is a strong enough word. He feels it is important to put administrative fines rather then suspension. Suggested the fines be equal to what the medallion holder might make during that time-period.

· **Carl Macmurdo:** He believes this document formalizes disability protection for Prop. K permit holders. It enhances public safety in that disabled permittee no longer will have to drive when they should not. He states the current MPC mandates the suspension or revocation for failure to drive full-time this draconian provision was a technical mistake from the offset. ADA laws were often proceeds as a static document. The Board instructed the Commission to establish an ADA system. He thanked the Commission and Deputy City Attorney for their commitment on this issue.

· **Murai:** She has been a permit holder for four years. She did not save her earning from her permit because she is a single parent who put her children and herself through college. She assumed she would have ADA protection like all Americans. She stated that she is here to serve her community and if she have a serious problem that the community will be here for her as well.

· **Norma Geer, Yellow Cab:** She has been driving a taxi for 22 years. She states that applicants are middle-aged by the time they received their permits. She believes it is unfair to change the system. She suggested changes should be phased in and permit holders should have protection until the phases are completed.

· **Mark Gruberg:** He has heard a lot about the Essential Eligibility Requirement and ADA and from what he has read he is not clear that this legislation deals with those issues. He believes this is a further watering down of the driving requirement. He believes the admonishment is completely an inappropriate penalty at this stage. He is happy this item is just for discussion. He hopes he has the opportunity to speak on this issue later.

· **Joseph Fleischman:** He states there is no legal way to discriminate against the disabled. Prop. K requires that all permits are to be awarded to people with the intended to drive it says nothing about disability. He believes this is about discrimination. He states that no local mandate in San Francisco can deny the Americans with Disabilities Act.

· **Stephen Reimers, Yellow Cab:** He thanked Joseph Fleischman and Carl Macmurdo for their comments. Permit holders have devoted their adult lives to this industry. Applicants wait for years before receiving a permit.

· **Michael Spain:** He thanked the City Attorney Office for their work on MPC 1090. He feels it is important to update the law every few years. He states that MPC 1090 is in conflict with the ADA law because there as been a lot of changes in the disability law. He states that the EER that was passed is in conflict with what recent California cases have said about disabilities.

· **Anne McVeigh:** She supports the recommendation put forth by the Commission because it will give the Commission flexibility. She believes this proposal will give the Commission an alternative to revocation. She states it would be bad if San Francisco were known nationally as the only city that doesn't follow Federal ADA Law. The interest of the city is that the public is served. She believes there is too much micromanaging of business industries. She supports the recommendation. She reminded everyone that driving a taxi is a very stressful job.

· **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He thanked Deputy City Attorney Owen

for drafting the proposal. He believes this legislation is bringing the law up-to-date. He states the Supreme Court said you can't discriminate in employment against the old and the elderly. He questioned the way medallions are held by the city can it be construed that permit holders are employees of the city?

9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
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KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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April 26, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the April 12, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Hearing and Discussion on Ramp Taxi Service. [DISCUSSION]
9. Hearing and Discussion on Paratransit Service Contract Requirements. [DISCUSSION]
10. Hearing and Discussion on possible Taxi Meter Gasoline Surcharge. [DISCUSSION]
11. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda
Regular Meeting
April 26, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Police Taxicab Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Fekeri Addi	Kamal Alhassan	Ghamoan Ali	Frederico Araujo
Rolando Argueta-Gutierrez	Fekad Asfaw	Mohammad Awan	Hadi Bayati
Ilyes Benchaala	Stephen Bondurant	Justin Bowman	Vanilcy Campana
Johnny Cao	Khiem Cao	Yaung Chan	Ronaldo Conceicao
Mark Corrigan	Walderson Da Silva	Ricardo Daconceicao	Tien Dao
Renata DeOliveira	Claudio DeSouza	Kaher Deisieh	Olavo Dourado
Jayalan Edirisingham	Emad Emoraly	Wagner Europeu	Nazareno Filho
Carolina Gonzalez-Lopez	Peter Greenberg	Rafael Guiulfo	Tahseen Hararah
Jason Haynes	Ashok Jassal	Dilip Karki	Boussad Lagab
Truoing Le	Margarita Li	Edgar Limos	Wei Lin
Victor Liuzzi	Dick Luong	Munir Marta	Hasan Mashal
Andrew Mathias	Frank Milano	George Minashvili	Nur Mohamed
Daniel Mok	Waled Mubarz	Christopher Nguyen	Triet Nguyen
Dustin Olson	Irfan Patel	Aondray Peoples	Masoud Pournezhad
Shaukat Rahtore	Husain Resan	David Robertson	Marta Roque
Muhammad sheikh	Zarik Shamilov	Zoeieann Smart	Robson Soares
Robert Tenuto	Kamel Touati	Luciano Vendeth	

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Union Cab Dispatch Company. (continued from 4/12/05)

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval to remove applicants from the Taxicab/Ramp Waiting List.

	Applicant	List #
1.	Sean Randolph Chapman	6-546
2.	Thomas Alban Davidson	6-829
3.	Robert Michael Doherty	6-451
4.	Peter Machel	6-385
5.	Clark Bradley Mason	6-533
6.	Dennis Albert Mathieu	6-432
7.	George Anthony Schuj	6-549
8.	John Haton Zitz	6-782

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the May 10, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

Aaron King
Beraki Ghebremichael
Daniel Areda

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Getahun Assefa	*9064*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Co-op*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

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The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

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Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall, Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 234, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-5163 or by e-mail at Donna_Hall@ci.sf.ca.us
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Donna Hall or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

April 26, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1

PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4

PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2

MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3

MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6

105

MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

April 26, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MAR - 7 2006

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PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:40 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neill, Sergeant Vince Simpson - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 12, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Jim Kennedy:** He stated at the last hearing there was many derogatory statements made against American Cab Company in which he is associated with, that wasn't true and those statements are not included within the minutes. He believes the Union Cab Company application was appropriate.

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab driver, 17 yrs, native San Franciscan:** He questioned how long does it take to post the minutes on the Internet after approval. He states in checking the archive there are no minutes posted for 1999 and the first part of 200 is also missing.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger permits). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Union Cab Dispatch Company). Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Jim Kennedy:** He was curious about the paratransit office requirement that dispatch companies must have 30 permits in order to have a paratransit contract. He believes this requirement is not justified.

· **Mark Soto, Paratransit Office:** He confirmed that there is an agreement between Union Cab and Yellow Cab Co-op that Union Cab will operate under Yellow Cab paratransit agreement for one year.

· **Peter Witt:** He questioned how long would Mr. Soto allow for an small cab company to grow? He questioned why small companies cannot pull together and form one large company?

4C Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C (Removal of decease applicants from permit waiting lists). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

5. STAFF REPORT

Danielle Windsor, S.F. Airport, Manager of Rates and Charges: S.F. Airport is in the process of setting their 2005/06 rates. The taxi trip fee rate will remain the same, which is $4.00. This will be the first year that taxis will be charged with a vehicle registration fee of $40.00. The airport currently inspects all taxis during the month of May. This fee will not affect taxis until May 2006.

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: She announced that all Commissioners should have received a transcript and tape on the Interactive Kiosk per their request. Form 1095 will be accepted at the Taxi Commission office from May 9-13, 2005. She received a phone call from Davies Symphony Hall requested additional taxi services following their performances. She will check the spacing at Davies for a taxi stand. She distributed and will fax to cab companies Davies Symphony Hall event calendar for all drivers will be aware of their performances.

Jim Gillespie, SFTA: He explained how the mounting for the Interactive Kiosk was changed. The problem was that the passenger seat could not moved all the way back which caused some leg restrictions. The new design mount the Kiosk in the rear of the passenger seat and are mounted into the frame of the seat. The seats now moved all the way forward and backward.

Sergeant Vince Simpson, SFPD-Taxi Detail: The Taxi Detail, Ground

Transportation Unit, members of the Taxi Commission and administrators from San Diego and Los Angeles met with representative from the State PUC Enforcement Section and discussed a number of different topics. Some of the topics were limitation of license that are granted to PUC applicants. They were looking into requiring: 1) some type of PC&N need to be submitted with their application; 2) examine the requirement for a criminal background check to all charter carrier drivers; 3) enhancing the accountability of insurance standards and requirements to charter party carrier vehicles; 4) re-examine the pre-arrangement definition to possible include a time element. In addition, the implementation and enforcement of State Assemble Bill 2591 and the verification of pre-arrangement was also discussed and basically some of the criteria within that amendment still have issue that have yet to be resolved. Some state representatives did agree that the administrative process need to be streamline by creating legislation which will allow PUC to administrative penalty and fines in addition to an administrative hearing. The representatives agreed that educating and warning the public on unlicensed illegally operating taxicabs/limousines and reporting them to their local jurisdiction.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** He announced the meeting regarding the Hilton Hotel will be held on May 6th, rm. 416, instead of April 29th. He urged everyone to attend the hearing to keep the three taxi stands. He questioned if large vehicles will have higher fee than taxi during inspections at the airport. He recommended that the Davies Symphony Hall should call the major dispatch companies and inform them when the events are ending. He believes that Sergeant Simpson did not address the concerns over what the definition is for pre-arrangement.

· **Peter Witt:** The Opera House maitre'd asked him to call dispatch for more cabs. He states his job is to service the public, not to call for cabs. Suggested making a cruise regulation for limousines to limit their availability. He submitted his report on illegal limousines operating in San Francisco from 1999-2005.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

This item is being continued until May 10, 2005.

Item #8 will be heard next.

8. HEARING AND DISCUSSION ON RAMP TAXI SERVICE.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Robert Cesana, PDA:** He is not speaking for Yellow Cab and PDA. He states that the van program is an utter and complete failure. The reason why it's a failure is vans should not have been allowed to go to smaller companies. He believes there are two ways to resurrect: 1) central dispatch for vans only, and 2) finding companies that will run the entire van program. He states that taxi services are subsidizing paratransit service. He states that a paratransit driver under this system cannot make enough money picking up paratransit calls with supplementing their income.

· **Barry Taranto:** Thanked the commission for discussing ramp taxi services. He suggested asking the contractor why not all cab companies list names. He believes the medallion holders should be held more accountable than their drivers for ramp pick-ups. Ramp permit holders need to show they are committed to the program. He applauded some medallion holders for switching from smaller taxi companies to Yellow Cab so they can participate and have a better opportunity in the ramp program. He defended some of the dispatchers at the airport.

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab, 17 yrs., San Francisco native:** He questioned what are the standards. The standard is three orders per shift. He questioned what happened to the pilot program. He stated there was a survey conducted on the paratransit program with the highest of compliments. He suggested doing some more research.

· **Bruce Oka, Chair of Paratransit Coordinating Committee, member of Ramp Taxi Working Group, member of Muni Citizen Advisory Council:** He believes the first speaker made a misstatement about ramp taxis. Ramp taxis are not only for wheelchair users, they are free to pickup any passenger who needs a cab. The ramp program has been in operation for 11 years and is still in the demonstration phase of it. He states Muni never took if off demonstration technically but the program is working although it does need to be tweaked. He suggested more involvement by drivers who are part of the program. He feels the discussion should be on how to make the program better, how to incentivize the program so that it looks more attractive.

· **Griff Humphey, Vice Chair of Paratransit Coordinating Committee, member of Ramp Taxi Working Group:** A wheelchair user is entitled to a lift van or ramp taxi. The lift van cost $35.00 and the other taxis cost less than half of that. He states that ramp users should be expected to call four or five phone numbers to try to get a ramp taxi.

· **Jim Kennedy:** He believes it is an epic tragedy the whole ramp taxi program. He was one of the first participants in the ramp program and he was told if he wanted to stay in the program he would have to purchase his own van. His ramp permit sat at Taxi Detail for two-years because the cost of the van was too high. In his experience 25 cabs would be more than enough to handle all ramp business. He states in order to get a ramp permit the applicant has to purchase a $45,000 van.

· **Ruach Graffis:** She provided a point of clarification. There are more than just ramp taxis at the airport. She states there were 10 mini-vans at the airport that were called up when passenger needed more luggage space. If the Taxi Industry were serious about serving the disabled community, they would have one central phone number for ramp taxi users and with every cab company involved.

· **Laurie Graham, Yellow Ramp Taxi #9039:** She was in the original program that started in 1994 that had 18 drivers. The project had 8 vans, six medallions and between the 18 drivers all shifts were filled. She does not believe the program is bad at this point and suggested incentive instead of punishment.

· **Jim Gillespie:** He stated he wanted to see the ramp taxi program be successful, but the approach has been wrong. The approach has been to threaten and penalize drivers and asking permit holders to spend more money on a vehicle. He stated this is the only town that has taxis on demand and if were going to do that we need to incentivize the drivers. He feels the way to make the program successful is by subsidizing.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Mark Gruberg:** He felt it was nice that President Jackson mention P.R. about the industry. He suggested providing regulation for a dress code and for the condition of taxis inside. He showed a picture of a driver wearing shorts and sandals. He feels that drivers should be dressed simple and clean and maintain a clean cab. He states a simple rule by the Commission of being neat and clean will do the job.

· **Tyler Speck, Manager of Arrow and Veterans Cab:** He states he does not think it is fair to give a 5th year vehicle a mileage cap of 350,000. During inspections at the airport will not provide the re-sticker in the cab has over 350,000 miles. He states the London cabs have a seven-year life with no mileage cap. Recommended agendizing a discussion on lifting the mileage cap.

· **Barry Taranto:** He thought the hearing would be adjourned in the memory of a deceased medallion holder. He states that some drivers have talked to Taxi Detail about the instantaneous pre-arrangement deal. He suggested an industry wide meeting of limousines doing instantaneous prearrangement. He believes the average cab driver is a slave. He feels it is important from drivers to have this day to celebrate from slavery. He asked the Commission to help create freedom for the cab drivers.

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab 17 yrs., native San Franciscan:** He believes limousines use temporary registrations because they do not have license plates and for they cannot be identify or reported. He provided his updated report on limousines from May 2003 until now. This is a big problem that affects public safety because limousines license plate in the rear of the car is not lit so they can't identify them, have no plates, broken taillight, they park in taxi zones, in parking spaces, parking in hotel white zones, driveways, double park, and cause traffic congestions.

· **XXXX:** He stated former Mayor Brown rode in his cab and he supports taxi business. He said he like making money from city hall people. He saw teachers, fire fighters, CHP and police officers protesting for their benefits. He states the taxi industry business was illegally stolen by illegal operating limousines. He suggested taxi drivers do their own protesting and that city hall find a solution to limousines in front of hotels.

· **Thomas George-Williams, UTW:** He states he went to S.F. General Hospital emergency room and he could not pay the bill because drivers don't have healthcare. He reminded everybody that drivers want healthcare. He received some junk mail from American Cab. He stated it is not good for commercial reasons not to sell the waiting list addresses. The airport suggested having the Taxi Commission make a rule whether cabs that accept credit cards should have a sticker or not. He states that the drivers are divided at the airport because of this issue.

· **Jim Kennedy:** He states that Thomas George Williams represents the Union. He said he had nothing to do with junk mail. The list can be purchased from the Commission office. American Cab purchased the A-card list. He has not received his junk mail yet.

· **Mark Gruberg:** He gave an update the limousine situation. U.T.W. went to the State and got new provision in the State Laws regarding limousines. Taxi Detail, the police officers and the airport are taking this situation more seriously. DPT has begun discussion regarding enforcement of white zones. He states the problem will not be disappear overnight but we are making terrific progress. He believes the one issue that needs resolution is pre-arrangement because passengers are escorted into limousines opposed to taxis. This is done in a corrupt fashion, because the doorman is receiving a kick back from the limousine drivers. This issue should be addressed at the city and state levels. He states there will be more protesting because drivers want a fair resolution.

9. Hearing and Discussion on Paratransit Service Contract Requirements.

Mark Soto, Paratransit Broker: He provided contractual information about paratransit office and answered questions from the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Mark Gruberg:** He stated that the paratransit requirement of 30 cabs in a dispatch service before allowing the dispatch service to accept paratransit is unreasonable. He feels that every cab should participate in paratransit. He stated not to list cab companies in the paratransit booklet if that company is not meeting the criteria. He suggested that cab companies should be allowed to pickup paratransit riders from off the streets.

· **Taso Zografos, SFTA:** The S.F.T.A.agrees with Mark Gruber's comments that all cabs should be allowed to provide service for paratransit users and should not be restricted to only dispatch companies with 30 or more cabs. He thinks the intent is to provide maximum service to the disabled community. The S.F.T.A. wants to enter into negotiation with the paratransit broker for the $1.50 subsidy before it sunsets by the end of the year.

· **Thomas George-Williams:** He states that cab drivers give to the paratransit community a discount of $1.50 per shift. The paratransit office is trying to regulate the taxi industry, which is totally

off.

· **Jim Kennedy:** He has a love/hate relationship with the paratransit broker. He states the $1.50 surcharge on the meter is for the paratransit office. He states the American Cab pay $900 to $975 for each month for each cab. The law that was passed, stated that every cab in San Francisco had to accept paratransit. However, the paratransit office refused to cash the scrip. The Commission should be dictating to the paratransit broker but it seems as if the paratransit broker is telling you what to do. He states there is anti-small business going on at the paratransit office. The paratransit office received lots of funds because they are subsidized by the city, state, federal government and by the cab drivers.

· **Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab:** He questioned what was going on with paratransit. He states that the Commission, passed by the Board of Supervisors, mandated that every cab in the city must accept paratransit. Then the Muni Broker said we don't take paratransit from color scheme with less than 30 cabs. He suggested having the city attorney's office to investigate why paratransit is trying to break the city's contract. Muni is able to collect from individual drivers $3.00 a day, and bills them individual. He feels they have no problems collecting money, they just have trouble paying paratransit and that is why there is still a black market for paratransit scrip. He suggested the Taxi Commission must insist that Muni set up a system for all small cab companies.

· **Barry Taranto:** He states that the paratransit broker has to abide by their contract with Muni. He suggested any concerns should be addressed to Mr. Burns and Ms. Williams, not the paratransit broker.

· **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab 17 yrs.,** Native San Franciscan: He feels that every cab should take paratransit and paratransit should not stand in the way. He suggested if cab companies cannot cash in their paratransit scrip then cab companies should work on a solution within themselves.

10. Hearing and Discussion on possible Taxi Meter Gasoline Surcharge.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Ruach Graffis:** She thanked Jimi Harris for preparing the report. She is not speaking against a surcharge for gasoline prices. She

believes this is an SFTA effort to get the gate fees raised. She states the drivers are the ones who need help. She feels that nothing should get in the way of making sure that drivers get healthcare.

· **Barry Taranto:** He appreciates this item being on the agenda. He states the concern is how do drivers pay for the increases in gas prices. He suggested not raising the meter at this point because there are people who can't afford to take taxis. Some drivers are creating a coalition to charge a flat rate to the airport, to compete with limousines, that way customers have a viable choice. He suggested that the extra button on the meter could be used for two different rates, maybe during peak time. He suggested not making cabs unaffordable, but suggested maybe looking into creating a surcharge on radio calls.

· **Taso Zografos, SFTA:** He appreciates this item on the agenda. He showed slide of a survey conducted by SFTA. He states the industry is a year behind most cities in invoking the surcharge. SFTA recommends a $0.75 initial drop surcharge with 0 rate increase, which will give you $15.00 per shift or a $0.25 initial drop with a $0.15 rate increase would give you the $15.00 per shift as well. He states that SFTA will provide the data.

· **Mark Gruberg:** He states the amount SFTA is asking for is a greater amount to drivers out of pocket. He feels SFTA is angling for a gate increase. He would love to hear unequivocally from members of SFTA that they do not have any plans to ask for a gate increase. He states if the Commission was to request an increase, he suggests that a $0.50 would be more sufficient for drivers. Healthcare for drivers should have been enacted by the Board of Supervisors by January 2004, but drivers are still waiting on it. He feels when the questions of funds for healthcare for drivers, some will look at the meter as a partial source of funding.

· **Carl Macmurdo:** He commended Jimi Harris and SFTA for their work. He states that drivers need the extra money for the shift to compensate the high cost of gas. He feels there is no cause for raising the meter rate for the public right now. When forwarding to the Controller's Office that this was not a rate increase, but a surcharge and all the money would go to the drivers.

· **Robert Cesana:** He is representing himself on this item. He stated he did a poll at the airport and 8 out of 10 said they do not want a meter increase now. He states there is a hotel strike that has not been resolved, conventions are moving away from the city and to raise the meter now would hurt local residents who take taxis.

· **Thomas George-Williams:** He states this is the wrong time to

increase the meter, it is counterproductive. He feels if the meter is raised, they would lose their customers because the taxi industry is in competition with limousines, busesand private cars. He suggested a different approach.

· **XXXX:** He states the whole country is struggling with prices going up. He wants equal opportunity in front of major hotels in San Francisco.

· **XXXX:** In 2000 the Commission passed the last rate increase, at that time the Controller was to review in two years. In our business where the driver has to pay for the gasoline, an increase in gasoline prices has a deleterious effect on driver's income almost immediately. He states the SFTA is asking for a rate increase to cover the fuel charge the drivers are paying. He feels raising the drop would be sufficient to cover the fuel cost.

· **Jim Gillespie, SFTA:** He does not think that a $0.50 or $0.75 increase per trip will make people stop taking taxis. He states that SFTA based their proposal on feedback from drivers. Drivers are concerned they are not making money, but if the drivers do not the meter increase, then do not increase the meter. He suggested more input from drivers.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment of the meeting in the memory of Howard Kelly at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

May 10, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

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1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the April 26, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Presentation by Lion Television on Cash Cab T.V. Show. [DISCUSSION]
9. Hearing and Possible Approval of Cab College Taxi School. [DISCUSSION][[POSSIBLE ACTION]
10. Hearing and Discussion on San Francisco Municipal Police Code Section 1090. [DISCUSSION][POSSIBLE ACTION]
11. Adjournment

25 Van Ness Avenue, Room 420, San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 503-2180 * Fax (415) 503-2186 * email: sftaxi.commission@sfgov.org * www.sfgov.org/taxicommission

Taxicab Commission Agenda
Regular Meeting
May 10, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Taxicab Medallion Holder permits to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Aaron King	203	Yellow Cab Co-op
2.	Beraki Ghebremichael	623	Yellow Cab Co-op
3.	Daniel Areda	798	Yellow Cab Co-op

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

		Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
	1.	Getahun Assefa	9064	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab
*	*2.*	*Wallace Lau*	*817*	*Regents Cab to Bay Cab*

** (continued from 1/11/05 and 1/25/05)*

C. Discussion and Possible Approval of Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme to be effective May 20, 2005-October 15, 2005. Applicant is Luxor Cab Company Medallion Nos. 115, 708, 1193. The Color Scheme Wrap Advertiser is Ben & Jerry's Ice Creams.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the May 24, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 45 each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Bhupendra Ramji Patel	*1222*	*Luxor Cab to DeSotoCab*
2. Joe Faden Borzello	*976*	*Veterans Cab to Bay Cab*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies o the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

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Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

May 10, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1

PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4

PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2

MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3

MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6

MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

May 10, 2005

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

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PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:40 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow, Officer Cynthia Kulstad - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 26, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Taxicab Medallion permits). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: Gillespie

4B1 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B1 (Getahun Assefa). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: Gillespie

4B2 Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve 4B2 (Wallace Lau). Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4C CANCELLED.

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: On Friday, May 6, 2005 the DPT office approved of the reductions of the O'Farrell Street taxi zone from 65 to 60, 5 feet. The Hilton Hotel had originally applied to rescind 20 feet of the zone to improve traffic and safety in front of the hotel. The Board of Appeals has postponed the Diane Cohen, Jamie Yuen and Boris Shamis cases. Joseph Breall's case will be heard by the Board of Appeals on May 18th. MTC Conference was held in Oakland and the conference focused on the use of taxis as a transportation

solution for low-income individuals and disabled persons. Findings will be released regarding the analysis of the proposals and information from the conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No Public Comments

- **Commissioner Smith:** Regarding the MTC Conference, we should look for resources to help Paratransit produce more scripts, and create incentives for the drivers to provide services to the underserved groups, especially the disabled.

- **Commissioner Gillespie:** We will deal with a lot of the issues discussed at the Conference in San Francisco.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner McGuire: National Cab wants to charge extra money for gate fees for their hybrid vehicle; this needs to be reviewed by the Taxi Commission. We should have a discussion about incentives or subsidies for the purchase of hybrid vehicles. Wants to have a discussion about and perhaps establish an administrative penalty for failure to report a permit-holder's death in a timely fashion. Staff should look into the Commission rules regarding the digital top signs because they may be dangerous. We should get specifications of the large digital top signs.

Commissioner Smith: Requesting immediate action and discussion for a one-year extension for all vehicles on the road. The reason is that the cost of vehicles, used and new, are increasing at an alarming rate. A one year extension would be helpful. Cab companies in Los Angeles have a 9 year plan; they use 5-year old used vehicles for four years with a 350,000 mileage cap. Request to calander an item to discuss taxi stands at BART stations. Request to have a discussion on a $0.50 gas surcharge because of the problematic gas prices. Agrees with Commissioner McGuire that there should be penalties for failure to notify the Commission of permit-holder deaths.

Commissioner Gillespie: Need a discussion of differential rates

charged for hybrid vehicles. Certain companies are charging higher fees and certain companies are proposing to charge higher fees for the hybrid vehicles. A meeting will be held to discuss problems associated with paratransit services. Amongst other cities, San Francisco is ahead in the establishment of paratransit services. Would like to adjourn the meeting in memory of Ted Milikin.

Commissioner Breslin: Need a discussion on the inside of taxis and the attire of drivers. We need to have the cabs clean the interiors and deal with the attire of the drivers. We need to create incentives for the industry to make improvements regarding these issues.

Commissioner Jackson: Attended an event last week where Ann Bailey, one of our Drivers of the Year, she was honored by San Francisco Senior Center for her care of seniors in the paratransit program. One of her passengers, impressed by her service, facilitated a donation of $75,000 to the Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Peter Witt:** Yellow cab driver. Native San Franciscan. 17 years driving. Wants to address Commissioner Breslin's comments regarding cab school. Cab drivers are only lease drivers. The owners are responsible for the cabs, or the cab companies. Whether the cab is maintained properly is not the cab driver's fault. The cab driver is not responsible for changing the oil and tires, the cab driver makes a report and it should be taken care of. We should not have to take extra time to maintain our cars at the rate we pay, this is a problem. There doesn't seem to be any system for tallying up the gate structure for any company for any vehicle, including hybrids. We need to monitor this closely. Cab companies keep making money off of dead permit holders. The waiting list applicants are harmed by this practice.

· **Barry Taranto:** I am concerned about the commissioner's comments. I agree that cab drivers should look decent and the cabs should not be messy, but concerned that without incentives, drivers will not have the wherewithal to do these things. Not making much money driving. Drivers have problems making a living. It is difficult to purchase cars. When extending the life of the cars, we need to make sure that the vehicles are properly maintained. Gas prices are a problem. If a medallion holder has died in an early part of the month, and the cab company has already paid the fee for use of the medallion, then it is not fair to the cab company to lose the medallion when they have already invested money into the use of the medallion for the rest

of the month.

· **Ruach Graffis:** Knew Ted Milikin for a long time. Many other drivers knew him as well.

· **Commissioner Gillespie:** Jim Mangan's name should not have been on list regarding drivers who had not complied with the paratransit driving/pick-up requirement. Jim picks up a lot of people in wheelchairs. Sorry for the mistake.

· **Kelly Castagnaro:** apologize to Jim for mistake, and any other driver who should not have been on the list.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Tyler Speck:** manager of Arrow and Veteran's Cab companies. Concerned about the 5-year, 350,000 mileage cab for taxis. Has his own shop, vehicles are well maintained. London cabs go for seven years, why can't Crown victorias go for longer than five years? Costs for companies go up every year. You should lift the mileage cap to help cab companies. Supports Commissioner Smith's proposal to extend vehicle life for one year. Appreciates the Commission considering this item.

· **Peter Witt:** Works for Yellow cab, native San Franciscan, 16 years. Has a report, gathered numbers of limousines that are suspicious. Has seen many limos pick people up. Witness are included. Has sheet of ramp taxis. Cannot find dates on ramp taxi report. Report is difficult to read. Check out this ramp van no show chart, can you read it? And I can't find a date on it. Once again I would ask the driver representatives who think being a Taxi Commissioner is a lifetime post to step down. So, drivers can be adequately represented better capable of dispensing proper and prudent policy. I asked that the numbers of these limos that flaunt the laws pertaining to vehicles for hire be submitted into the minutes of March 22nd and they were not so I'll ask once again. D728, F443, J174, F761, F917, E627, F371, G640, K886, F893. And what's very troubling is it seems Paek has taken a permanent leave of absence. And Mr. Kwok seems to miss a number of meetings do I assume to his health. And considering the equilibrium of this commission is problematic. I think it could use all the help it can get in this discovery process. Check out this ramp van no show chart, can you read it? And I can't find a date on it. Maybe a colored chart is too much to ask...but at least you could highlight obvious irregularities. Mr. Jackson, why is not on the agenda,

one year older than this. I don't know my number on the list, the police used to send the number to us once in a while. It needs a constant update.

· **John Nakis:** with Yellow cab. Good article in the Examiner. Overall, our industry in San Francisco has scored very high marks in all categories, from clean cabs to nice drivers to pleasant rides. Was amazed about the number of rides being reported—1.7 million rides in 2002 to 1.1 millions rides in 2004. Reduction in total rides due to out of town cabs and illegal limos at hotels. Hotel persons are directing people to limos instead of taxis.

· **Martin Kazinski:** I represent people on the waiting list. I am president of the Permit List Association. It has been seven years since the Board of Appeals declared the Veterans medallions as illegal. I wish President Jackson would place that item on the agenda so we can move forward. Veterans wants another seven years to profit off of the medallions. Please do something or a lawsuit will have to be brought to let the courts decide the issue. Please also look at reform to update the waiting list. The list should be as current as possible.

· **James Mangan:** His item has already been addressed, the mistakes in the ramp taxi report. Permit 9008 has picked up between 500 and 700 people in the six-month period.

· **Bruce Oka:** Need to get good drivers interested in the ramp taxi program so people in need will be picked up. Wants to see waybills of ramp drivers to verify pick-ups. If any company has ramp medallions, they have an obligation to do ramp-pick ups. Also, concerned about medallion 9063.

· **Mark Gruberg, UTW:** Wants to talk about idea that is being discussed at UTW, a vision of the creation of a taxi health and welfare fund. If created, it could take care of a number of driver issues. For instance, if a driver can no longer drive, then the driver would give up the medallion and the fund would provide replacement income. Maybe a disability plan, also a voluntary retirement plan. It is a practical plan, although ambitious. It would tremendously benefit drivers. It would reduce accidents and insurance. The public would have a stable, dedicated, experienced and safe taxi workforce.

· **Barry Taranto:** This Sunday is the busiest Sunday of the year—Bay to Breakers. We deserve seven Commissioners, and only five are here. Would like to know whether Min Paek will be coming back to the Commission. Why does the other missing Commissioner always get so many days off and get to come in late? It is only fair if standards are same for every Commissioner. Would like to congratulate President Jackson for being recognized in the Bay Guardian for his civic

involvement and volunteer activies. We have a new airline at the new international terminal. The inspections next year will only be $25.00 per vehicle, not $40.00—no increase in trip fee. However, solicitation is still going on at the terminals and the police have not taken evasive??? action. Thanks airport staff on working on the problem, we need to get the police involved. Good news is they are not closing the Broadway tunnel on Friday and Saturday nights. Veterans cab had an accident in the tunnel though. I was there Friday night, and was abused. Felt like they were sending me to gas chamber. Saturday I avoided North Beach. A lot of drivers avoid North Beach because of the impeding traffic tickets. The police do not want drivers in North Beach, please help solve the problem.

· **Thomas George-Williams:** New chair of UTW. We have a new approach, we look for solutions for the whole industry. We are not interested in special interests, like disability for medallion holders. Wants to invite cab companies and the PDA to work on solutions for the whole industry and not their own agendas. When are when are we going to revise the waybill rules? Still don't think we need a gas surcharge. We need more cabs stands so we don't have to cruise around. We need more cabstands so we don't have to cruise around empty. Make energy efficient cars mandatory. Supports an investigation for the electronic taxicabs, they seem to be dangerous. Looks forward to seeing results on that. Correcting Barry, the first inspection is $25.00, and re-inspection is $45.00. This is reasonable.

· **Robert Cesana:** feels that we have to revisit the whole issue of taxi scripts. In the past, Commission had prosecuted taxi drivers for selling script. Has it occurred to you that taxi drivers who are unable to get their taxi scripts reimbursed by MUNI have no other means other than subsidizing their passengers or subsidizing MUNI? If you want to have a rule, that doesn't appear to be clear, that you want all taxi drivers to pick up all fairs including people who offer to pay by script, then you have to put your foot down some time. You have to say to the Mayor "please intervene into this dispute." The rule of the Taxi Commission is that everybody picks up, and the rule must be everybody must be reimbursed on the same basis. If not, you have no credibility. And here you are, talking about subsidizing other things. You have to have credibility, at this point you don't because MUNI is telling you what to do. If they cant do it, we can find another contractor. The Taxi Commission has to sit down with the Mayor and MTA and say this, by the previous Mayor, is a public-transit-first City. Now, it's a public-transit-last City. Most drivers will not go to the ballpark, and we are hearing the drivers are starting to avoid North Beach. Maybe everybody in this town should just by a car.

· **Taso Zografos:** with the San Francisco Taxi Association. Of all cities in the U.S., San Francisco is the only City that subsidizes transportation for on-demand calls for paratransit community. Most

paratransit services are federally funded and subsidized through scheduled van services and this industry is the only one in the country that actually contributes to that fund for the municipality's services. We appreciate the discussion regarding gas surcharge. Cab companies want to know why no action was taken to provide a surcharge relief for fuel increases that they are experiencing. There has been an overwhelming concern about why no action was taken. Asking that this issue be reintroduced as an agenda item for discussion in the next meeting. The SFTA is concerned about its drivers. The SFTA is currently working with health care providers to establish a health care plan for drivers. Plan should come to fruition in the next ninety to hundred days, finalizing number s now.

· **Commissioner Jackson:** Who will pay for the plan?

· **Taso Zografos:** there will be a number of contributors to the plan, both City government, drivers and companies.

· **Norma Geer:** limos are a major problem. It is disheartening to see what is happening at the Hilton, limos are taking a lot of business. Can the Commission make a hand-out to give to passengers regarding the laws governing illegal limo activities?

· **President Jackson:** regarding Robert Cessana's statement, one thing is clear, if the Commission wants drivers to take script, it is incumbent on us to make a way for them to cash their script.

8. PRESENTATION BY LION TELEVISION ON CASH CAB T.V. SHOW.

Kelly Castagnaro: introduced the representative from Cash Cab. This is not an item which the Commission needs to approve, it is an informational presentation for the benefit of the Commission.

Tony Tackaberry: Thank you for letting me talk to you today. My colleagues would like the opportunity to work with the City of San Francisco to make the series a nationwide success. It is a new show, developed by our London office. It is sold to 17 territories worldwide, we just finished shooting the 20th episode in the UK. Thanks to the Discovery Channel, we are bringing the program to the U.S. Discovery Channel bought forty episodes to cash cab. Our priority is to find a home city for the show. Unsuspecting members of the public hail what they think is a normal cab. There will be no unusual markings on the cab, and cab will be driven by a licensed cab driver. The lights will go

on when the patron gets in the cab, and the scoreboard goes up. The passenger will have to sign a consent form if they want to take part in the show, and acknowledging the rules of the show. If they wish not to participate, they will be given a complimentary ride to their destination in a cab that will be following the cash cab. If the passengers answer the questions right, they may win up to $1,000. When the game is over, passengers must leave the cab. If the game ends before, they reach their destination, the will also be offered a comoplimentary ride to their destination. We want privacy, comfort and safety for both the cab driver and the passenger. We hope to work closely with Kelly and the Commission, so that no one is subject to any risk , and want to insur strict adherence to the laws, rules and regulations governing the taxi industry.

Commissioner Gillespie: San Francisco is a great city for the program, supportive of the idea. What stage are you in for selection?

Tony Tackaberry: We are still deciding, San Francisco is the front-runner.

Commissioner Gillespie: who will be filming?

Tony Tackaberry: there will be no film crew, only small tiny cameras placed inside the taxi cab. Only driver, and one production team member in the front seat. Nothing will go on camera unless there is a signed consent form.

Commissioner Breslin: What is the selection process for the cab companies? What is the marketing plan?

Tony Tackaberry: marketing is everything, but in early stages right now and still working on marketing plan and driver selection strategy.

Commissioner Breslin: sounds like a good project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab, 16 yrs., San Francisco native:** I take

my job seriously. This a marketing plan to sell the show, not our cabs. Have you seen the show? Are we going to be mocked? Should we treat customers like this? Is this against City policy—refusal to convey? Are these city cabs, city drivers? Who is going to be in the back trailing these cabs, a professional driver? Driver representatives should be representing driver. This does not highlight drivers in a responsible manner. It is not funny. How about driver participation in a contest for better service?

9. HEARING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CAB COLLEGE TAXI SCHOOL.

Kelly Castagnaro: the proposed location is 1095 Market Street, room 408 in San Francisco. Both myself and Officer Makaveckas have reviewed the application, visited the site, and feel confident that they cover all the topics covered in the rules and regulations and the space is adequate for the school.

David Doering: thank the Commission and Detail for involvement in the application process. Two purposes for taxi class. First, make sure that drivers maintain a certain minimum level of service based upon knowledge of the city and appropriate driver conduct. Second, drivers should possess a basic knowledge of how to operate a cab efficiently. Students will be taught how to efficiently get around the City.

David Trautman: many drivers do not have English as a first language. Thus, we will use audio-visual elements to incorporate effective communication with the drivers to accurately assess their knowledge of the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· **Barry Taranto:** I see a lot of drivers break the law, and they don't realize that what they do impacts the public's safety. It is important that any new schools get scrutinized to insure proper training for public safety. Why does the class only last five hours, four days a week when other schools last longer. I found something negative about

the background of the instructor(s). I am concerned that they are not appropriate to teach drivers. They do not have a lot of years of driving experience in the City.

· **President Jackson:** are you saying that one of the candidates is inappropriate to teach school?

· **Barry Taranto:** I can't answer that.

· **Mark Gruberg:** I have no specific objection to this application. I am against the model of having multiple competing classes—one class with uniform would make more sense. Cab companies are controlling and dictating the classes for drivers to attend. Students are being steered into taxi school of the taxi company's choice.

· **Ruach Graffis:** I teach at the other classes. It is true, at most companies, the fact that there are two schools is not being shared with drivers. I do not want the new school to be subject to the same problems that the Taxi Institute has had. Not many drivers are told about the Taxi Institute. All schools should have equal notification to the drivers from every cab company.

· **President Jackson:** how much do you charge?

· **Ruach Graffis:** we charge $125, the Flag-a-Cab charges $175.

· **Peter Witt:** First, didn't the last presentation speaker say we had a fine reputation? And if we're increasing the standards and raising the bar, I disagree. This is just another form of a stick under what grounds do you call for more training, that evidents do you bring that S.F. drivers are bad or untrained. Only hearsay and anecdotal. Let's just blame the drivers "as always". Who has no voice and no adequate representation. This is the biggest ploy in this business. And the candle burns at both ends. Second, this paper by Bruce Schaller says higher pay, safer cabbies why do you think that is? What makes a good driver - training or experience? If a driver that likes his job or if one doesn't? I think a stable secure job attracts good drivers and keeps them. Drivers are not lemons and you can't squeeze them to make lemonade. This commission is all about the whip and the stick. And the drivers not the owners have been on the receiving end. But companies don't care if you are a twenty-year veteran, we're all expendable commodities. That can easily be replaced. In today's market when the economy dips down is when there is an abundant supply of drivers willing to replace the older ones. There is no replacing experience. And your task should be to keep that experienced veteran content and happy. And not follow the lead of the big company for their own personal gain.

- **Thomas George-Williams:** I welcome another cab school, and I think that drivers need good education. In Germany, the class is three months. Quality is important, not the amount of schools.

- **President Jackson:** we will take a 10 minute break to review the binder of the application materials.

- **Commissioner McGuire:** made a motion to approve.

- **Inspector Suslow:** all schools will have the same hours; there will a seven-hour day, twenty-eight hour weeks.

- **Commissioner Smith:** Seconded the motion.

AYES: Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: Jackson

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

10. HEARING AND DISCUSSION ON SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL POLICE CODE SECTION 1090.

This item is being continued.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment of the meeting in the memory of Ted Milikin at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya

Banks

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
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MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

May 24, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

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1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the May 10, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Hearing and Discussion on Establishing Taxi Stands at BART Stations (DISCUSSION).
9. Hearing and Discussion on Holding Taxi Commission Meetings in City Neighborhoods (DISCUSSION).
10. Hearing and discussion on MPC Section 1084 Regarding Notice on Death of Permitee (DISCUSSION).
11. Adjournment

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Nabeel Abdelrahman	Kusmelha Adem	Anwar Ahmad	Mahmood Alhakim
Dhafer Alnaami	Edward Baidoo	Steven Chow	Nicole Crnjanski
Tony Duong	Montasser Farag	David Fatmeson	Massoud Fattahi
Alexandre Fernandes	Jander Godoy	Richard Hruska	Michael Jaber
Rifiq Khan	Bensalah Lahouari	Anthony Lau	Adolfo Madrid
Raja Malhi	Eduardo Martins	Michael Obah	Kevin O'Connor
Aung Lwin Oo	Joshua Seng	Nizar Slama	Ira Smith
Tadeu Todaro	Jose Vieiradacosta	Jaipal Walia	Rizghi Ymesghen
Dervis Yuksel	Ansar Zia	Qurban Ali	Abdo Alowdi
Lemelle Bates	Romany Boctor	Philip Bourne	Charles Branklyn
Christopher Brewster	Kwok Tai Cheng	Ahmed Chokri	Jack Correia
Jose Costa, Jr.	Kleber Da Silva	Nicholas Delucca	Amanze Egu
Evghenii Formanciuc	Donald Graves	Robert Hanfling	Okugo Iphie
James Jones, Jr.	Saeed Khalaf	Amjad Khan	Jarearn Labpoontavee
Yi Lin	Tariq Malik	Ahmad Marrah	Magda Neves
Kevin Nguyen	Ang Nuri	Anthony Pistoia	Fabio Rezende
Fabio Ribeiro	Henrique Rodrigues	Mauricio Rodriguez	Ajay Samant
Omar Sarwar	Santokh Singh	Surjit Singh	Tarlok Singh
Igor Tanov	Ghirmai Tesfamicael		

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1.	Bhupendra Ramji Patel	1222	Luxor Cab to DeSoto Cab
2.	Joe Faden Borzello	976	Veterans Cab to Bay Cab

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the June 14, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

1. Jack Kwong
2. Jay Rosaves

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Kin Ching Ching	*1009*	*Bay Cab to Union Cab*
2. Dau V. Nguyen	*1227*	*Arrow Cab to S.F. Taxi*
3. Louis Peppars	*337*	*Luxor Cab to Metro Cab*
4. Kevin McNamee	*1285*	*National Cab to Metro Cab*

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Taxicab Commission

May 24, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON,
PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE,
COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE,
COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK,
COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH,
COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3
2
24/05

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
May 24, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

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PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:35 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Jimi Harris, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow, Officer Cynthia Kulstad - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MAY 10, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes.
Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Paek

RECUSED:

None

4. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Change). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

5. **STAFF REPORT**

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: The Taxi Commission will begin issuing the new 2005-06 medallions and begin the collection of the 2004-05 medallions. The Taxi Commission is requesting that all color schemes send a list of medallions currently operating at their companies to the Commission office by Friday, May 27, 2005. The list may be faxed to 503-2186 or brought in person. The exchange will take place beginning June 20th through June 24, 2005 in our office from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and all Color Schemes have received written notice about this as well. The second meeting of the Taxi and Ramp Taxi Subcommittee Special Task Force was held on Thursday, May 12, and several recommendations emerged regarding paratransit vehicle safety and cleanliness, government regulations, consumer service and driver training. There is no written report at this time, but further details will be provided at a later date. On Friday, May 20th, there was a meeting held with the Taxi Commissioners, industry representatives, taxi drivers and DPT staff regarding white zones in front of hotels. Beginning June 15th, DPT staff will begin aggressively patrolling these white zones to ticket vehicles that are parked in this area. There will be a grace period, and drivers will be let off with a warning for the first couple of weeks. In addition, I am working with DPT staff to clean up the taxi stands at hotels, as there are some zones that are lacking signage and some signs that are not visible. We are working with hotels that do not have existing zones to encourage them to establish taxi zones. While these are not enforcement efforts in regards to illegal limos, we are hopeful that this

will be one method of eliminating illegal limos from hanging out and competing for fares. The revocation of Joseph Breall's medallion was upheld by the Board of Appeals on Wednesday, May 18th by a vote of 3-2. Thanked Sergeant Simpson and Jimi Harris for their hard work.

Sergeant Vince Simpson, S.F.P.D.-Taxi Detail: Robbery Detail issued a crime bulletin involving a taxicab robbery. On April 16th, around midnight, the suspect was picked up on the 2800 block of San Bernardo Rd. The suspect pulled out a semiautomatic handgun and robbed the driver. The suspect is describe as Pacific Islander, male, 20-25 years old, 6 foot 2, about 210 pounds, slight mustache, no goatee with a heavy Fijian accent. If anyone has any information, please contact Robbery Detail. About two weeks later, a Yellow cab was robbed over in Berkeley and the suspect continued on a crime spree where he eventually shot one of the victims. The Berkeley Police Department was able to retrieve the taxi and downloaded the pictures from the taxicab security camera of the suspect. The suspect is still outstanding but hopefully we can get some additional information for the Robbery Detail. The cameras are going to be used in apprehension of these suspects and we are fortunate that the drivers were not injured in either of these two incidents.

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: I regret to inform the Commission that Jimi Harris will be leaving the Taxi Commission to accept a job with PG&E. Tomorrow will be his last day and we are very sorry to see him go. Jimi has provided invaluable service to the industry through his work on disciplinary appeals, general Commission request, audits, compiling and writing numerous reports to assist the Commission in setting fair and accurate policy.

Jimi Harris: He thanked Naomi Little for giving him the opportunity to work with the Taxi Commission. He also thanked Kelly Castagnaro, Taxi Detail and Sonya Banks for their hard work in helping him to provide excellent service to the taxi industry and the Taxi Commission.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Breslin: This is Memorial Day Weekend, and should be a great weekend for everybody. There will be a cluster of individuals probably needing cabs in North Beach on Memorial Day about 4:00 p.m., because of the Annual Penny Pitch that benefits St. Anthony Dining Room. She wanted to thank the San Francisco Taxi Association for putting in a team to contribute to this event. There will be great prizes, and everyone is welcome to attend the event. The street will be closed from Union and Stockton Streets for that one block. Last year, they raised over $50,000 for St. Anthony Dining Room, and I know a lot of you contributed your own time.
Commissioner Gillespie: He congratulated Jimi Harris. He attended

the meeting with the Department of Parking and Traffic regarding the white zone enforcement at hotels. For the people that attended, he does not think this is the time to discuss the contents of the meeting. He requested scheduling a hearing on the new policy that was discussed and that the letter that was sent to Commissioner Breslin be distributed to all the Commissioners. He requested that a representative from DPT attend that hearing. He stated that a lot of good ideas and solutions came out of the paratransit meeting.
Commissioner Smith: He requested to calendar and possible action on 1) rescinding the Essential Eligibility Requirement. 2) medallion holders may drive any medallion and be credited toward their driving requirement. 3) a discussion of failure to convey and what we can do to stop drivers who turn down runs at the hotels so they can get to the airport. 4) a discussion on drivers with bad attitudes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He welcomed back Commissioner Kwok. He thanked Commander Harper, SFPD who oversees the PCO, Bond Yee, DPT and Lt. Schlotz, SFPD-Taxi Commission for attending the DPT meeting, because their input was very helpful. He stated that cab stand signs are missing at the hotels or signs that may not be legislated. He believes that one of the blatant violators has been the Omni Hotel. The Ramp Taxi meeting was very beneficial, and he hopes a more comprehensive written report is given about what occurred. One topic that was addressed was establishing a centralized dispatch, so that all companies can share in the pick-ups. The incentive idea was fleshed out and hopefully we can continue to flesh it out. He thanked everybody who participated and shared their ideas.
- **Mark Gruberg, UTW:** He spoke in reference to Commissioner Gillespie's comments on the white zone enforcement. He believes the white zones have been loosely and informally used as a staging areas, pick-up area by both taxis and limousines. However, there is a difference because taxis are transportation on demand and limousines are only allowed to pick-up by pre-arrangement. He hopes that certain hotels that have been using white zones as de-facto taxi zones will now create taxi zones.
- **Carl Macmurdo:** In regards to Commissioner Smith comments on medallion holders being able to drive any medallion, he believes that because the regulation was in effect, it caused the big companies to follow the rules and hundreds of cabs were sitting with scores of drivers wanting to drive, so the public was unable to get a cab all because of that rule. The Essential Eligibility Requirement the Commissioner Smith wants to eliminate is very confusing. He feels the existing EER standard and definition are not defined. He stated that the document that was advertised and read into the records was substituted with a different

document without being announced and should be rescinded.

- **Mike Spain:** He stated there was little discussion when the EER was adopted. He believes the public was not aware of the important changes and feels it is time to look at the EER again with the possibility of dropping it. He feels it is being used as a hammer against working driver owners. He believes one of the problems with the limousines is that they are not licensed by the City and County of San Francisco, so there is no local authority that has power over them.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Cheryl Hills, Attorney for King Cab:** King Cab has been in operation almost 40 years and established by an African American pioneer, Elias Bowie. Mr. Bowie recently passed away and section 1084/1082 is causing great hardship to his wife and their associates. She asked the Commission to look into the impact of these regulations. She states the Commission has the discretion to issue a waiver when the loss of a permit holder creates a snowball effect in a whole entity of people who are in business together are put out of that business because the person on the permit passes away. She suggested to rewrite the regulation or look into them on a case-by-case basis. Requesting the use of King Cab at least until the end of June.
- **Barry Taranto:** He thanked Jimi Harris for all his work on behalf of the taxi industry. He encourages drivers to call the police dispatch at (650) 876-2424 to report town cars and limousines that seem to be soliciting, because now the dispatch is more cooperative. He feels there is no excuse for drivers not to pick-up fares from the hotels, and that drivers should not have bad attitudes with passengers. He believes the issue is really between the cab drivers and the doorman, because if the doorman would follow the rules and did not require payment, a lot of problems would be solved.
- **John Nakis, Yellow Cab:** He provided a follow-up to the Examiner's Report of 600,000 lost riders. He came up with a staggering figure of what limousines are charging illegally. He believes it is the loss that the public overpay when taking limousines instead of taxis. He did not use out of town trips, he used trips within the airport and San Francisco for his figures. He displayed paperwork from Los Angeles Police Department where they have a unit that operates against illegal cabs and illegal limousines. He suggested San Francisco needs such a unit as well.
- **Blake Derby:** He thanked the Commission for trying to fix things. He is happy to be a taxi driver. He states we do not always agree but it is a forum and it is great and it gives an opportunity to learn how to give a good speech. He informed the Commission of what is so great about cab driving.

8. HEARING AND DISCUSSION ON ESTABLISHING TAXI STANDS AT BART STATIONS.

Mr. Carter Mau, BART Manager of Customer Access: He informed the Commission that BART is very supportive of having taxi stands at their stations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He thanked Carter Mau for attending tonight's hearing. He states at the Embarcadero Station there are two major cab stands (the Hyatt Regency and 101 California Street). He suggested taxi stands at the Civic Center station and 24th Street. In regards to the 16th Street location, he feels it would be underutilized by cabs. The Glen Park and Balboa Stations would be a problem because there are lot of pick-ups by resident and bus stops. He feels it is great for BART to use their new signs to inform passengers where the designated cab stands locations.
- **Carl Macmurdo:** He thanked Commissioner Smith for this item. He feels this is a public safety issue because if passenger gets off BART after dark, walking is not always safe.

9. HEARING AND DISCUSSION ON HOLDING TAXI COMMISSION MEETINGS IN CITY NEIGHBORHOODS.

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: In the past, the Taxi Commission has held a meeting in Bayview at the Southeast Community Facility. At our meetings, there are very few members of the public here to testify about their experiences. However, she receives a lot of comments that this Commission should be hearing. She suggested that by hearing in different neighborhoods with herself, one staff member and a couple of Commissioners, the Commission would get a better sense of the reality of taxi services, what peoples complaints are, and what people would like to see happen.

President Jackson: He requested that the Director come back with a proposal for the Commission that would allow staff, the director and two Commissioners to hold hearings at four neighborhoods every year. By only using two Commissioners, it does not make it an official meeting and does not cost as much.

10. HEARING AND DISCUSSION ON MPC SECTION 1084 REGARDING NOTICE ON DEATH OF PERMITTEE.

Inspector Farrell Suslow, SFPD-Taxi Detail: He provided clarification on MPC Section 1084. He informed the Commission that there had been

12 permits returned so far this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Mark Gruberg:** He wanted to endorse the idea of a fine or successive fines because this has been abused in the past. He recalled one instance of a medallion that was not returned for something like 10 years. There is no excuse for that.
- **Tom Owen, Deputy City Attorney:** When our pending ordinance is finally adopted, it will provide for administrative penalties for violation of any of these police code sections.
- **Carl Macmurdo:** He states that Tom Owen said exactly what he was going to say.
- **John Nakis:** He wanted to make a distinction between fines. He asked if a permit holder who resides in Italy for the past 10 years dies and the cab company has no idea when that person died, (because it could be a full year before the Commission request for the proof of life), would the cab company be liable.
- **Barry Taranto:** He stated if a permit holder died early in the month and the cab company already issued a check to the permit holder, it is only fair that they can keep the medallion until the end of the month. He believes the issue is focusing on the notification process.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
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MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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June 14, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the May 24, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Discussion on white zone enforcement and hotel taxi stands with James Lee and Jerry Robbins of the Department of Parking and Traffic (DISCUSSION) (POSSIBLE ACTION)
9. Discussion on the closure of Broadway Street parking and the construction of temporary taxi stands to serve the North Beach area with Officer Fred Crisp of Central Station. (DISCUSSION) (POSSIBLE ACTION)
10. Discussion on results of the Taxi Detail's lost property stings (DISCUSSION)
11. Hearing on proposal to do neighborhood outreach to community groups regarding taxi service (DISCUSSION) (POSSIBLE ACTION)
12. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
June 14, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Haytham Abdelraizg	Muzaffar Abduwaliyev	Marcos Albuquerque	Douglas Allen
Sun Tun Aung	Stephen Baker	Marian Berenfus	Farid Bhana
Mohammed Bhuiya	Djamel Bounekar	Richard Bruner II	Jason Carver
Patrick Chan	David Chi	Son Hai Chu	Jeane Correia
Wander DaSilva	Richard Davila	Franklin De Freitas	Vagner Delgado
Anacelia DeQueiroz	Hailton DeOliveira	Salem Dosouqi	Ibrahim Elmakki
Jonathan Girma	Enrique Hernandez	Sardar Janbaz	Pamela Johnson
Michael Kelly	Kahin Khalid	Muhammad Khan	Artisiom Khatkevich
Mike Kummer	Dante Kun	Carmo Leopoldino, Jr.	Farhat Mansouri
Kyaw Maung	Nur Mohamed	Pavel Nasalevich	Vicgtor Pardo
James Peoples	Muhammad Rizvi	Robson Santos	Gurpreet Sekhon
Muddasar Shaikh	Dzmitry Shkuratau	Shahriar Sohaei	Jerry Stephens
Samuel Tai	Tung Tang	Johnny Tawasha	Amanuel Tekeste
Waldagibrile Tekeste	Martin Wilson	William Wong	Wayne Wu
Shohrat Yazov	Bill Yu	James Zarick	

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Taxicab Permit to:

		Medallion	Cab #	Color Scheme
	1.	Jack Kwong	322	Bay Cab
*	2.	Jay Rosaves	269	Luxor Cab

**(This item is being continued because Jay Rosaves will be unable to attend tonight's hearing but will be able to attend the next hearing on June 28, 2005)*

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Kin Ching Ching	1009	Bay Cab to Union Cab
2. Dau V. Nguyen	1227	Arrow Cab to S.F. Taxi
3. Louis Peppars	337	Luxor Cab to Metro Cab
4. Kevin McNamee	1285	National Cab to Metro Cab

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the June 28, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458 each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
	1. Sergey Ponomarchuk	*1. Comfort Cab*

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

	Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1.	*Arthur Josue*	*29, 30, 31, 32*	*Big Dog to S.F. American Taxi* ***(Request Withdrawn)***
2.	*William W. Wieland*	*271*	*Veterans to S.F. American Taxi*
3.	*Faramarz Golshan*	*398*	*Yellow Cab Co-op to Arrow Cab*
4.	*Emad F. Shehadeh*	*172*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
5.	*Lawrence Gerald Paul*	*376*	*Arrow Cab to Veterans Cab*
6.	*Abdulbaki Gudu*	*9012*	*Yellow Co-op to Comfort Cab*
7.	*Jilch Sambi*	*9003*	*Luxor Cab to Comfort Cab*
8.	*Elias Negash*	*9069*	*DeSoto Cab to Comfort Cab*

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Taxicab Commission

June 14, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON,
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MIN PAEK,
COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH,
COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

23
2
1/14/05

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
June 14, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith

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ABSENT:

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow, Officer Cynthia Kulstad - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MAY 24, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Paek, Smith
NOES: None

ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, McGuire
RECUSED: None

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CASTAGNARO REQUESTED ITEM #9 THEN #8 WILL BE HEARD NEXT.

9. DISCUSSION ON THE CLOSURE OF BROADWAY STREET PARKING AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY TAXI STANDS TO SERVE THE NORTH BEACH AREA WITH OFFICER FRED CRISP OF CENTRAL STATION.

Officer Fred Crisp: S.F.P.D. - Central Station: He provided information regarding Broadway Street parking.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Thomas George-Williams, UTW:** He welcomed the white zones on Broadway Street. He believes taxi stands are needed near customers because customers do not like to walk. He suggested the 400 and 500 blocks of Broadway Street and to extend two taxi stands during weekdays and nights.
- **Ruach Graffis, U.T.W.:** A number of people attended the ISCOTT meeting and worked out some of the problems. She believes it would be more accessible to drivers if drivers were legally allowed to turn left on Pacific from Kearny Street because drivers do not want to drive down Grant Street for long period- of-time.
- **Barry Taranto:** He thanked Officer Crisp for attending the hearing. He states it was difficult for cab drivers to get into the North Beach area because of the Broadway Tunnel closure. He wanted a guarantee that when drivers drop off and/or pick-up that they don't get harassed by police officers and if so they should be able to contact someone immediately to deal with the problem. He feels it is useless to put a cab stand on the 300 block of Broadway, because its downhill and people will not be able to see cabs there. He suggested an informal meeting to see how this is working.
- **Tone Lee:** He is very appreciative to central police station because they are concerned with traffic. He has been driving Friday and Saturday nights for many years. He suggested from Columbus to Broadway streets blocking the entire block allowing no cars to get in. He states that he never use Kearny Street because of the no left or right turns. He suggested a taxi stand in front of Hong Kong restaurant.
- **Robert Cesana, Yellow Cab, PDA:** He believes the staff made a mistake in copying the old plan, which states no stopping zones. He has concerns about the white zones. He predicts that all the white zones outside the restaurants and clubs will be filled with valet cars because there will be no supervision of the white zones.

- **Peter Witt:** First notice of closures are imperative for a cleaner and more efficient taxi service and public convenience. Advanced notice to central dispatch for the taxi drivers would be nice. Work on a system, during major events, that allows taxi drivers easy entrée into and out of events. Such as the kind Muni and bicycles have but temporary and marked by cones. Mapped out in advance and posted at shops located in a special spot at the shops titled "current events, taxi stands and routes". And it could also be printed in the newspapers as a public service. Mind you this would take a little thought and willingness to produce. But it's one way to promote taxi service and further the interested of the taxi industry.

8. **DISCUSSION ON WHITE ZONE ENFORCEMENT AND HOTEL TAXI STANDS WITH JAMES LEE AND JERRY ROBBINS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKING AND TRAFFIC.**

Jerry Robbins, Director, Department of Parking and Traffic: He informed the Commission this is in response to concerns about white zones particularly at hotels that were occupied for long period-of-time by limousines and/or other cars. Letters had been sent to the Hotel Council informing them that DPT will begin enforcement of the white zones on June 15, 2005. Warning notices have been prepared and currently being distributed and will be for the next couple of weeks. Hopefully, there will be compliance with the 5-minute time limit for white zones.

James Lee, Assistant Director of Enforcement - DPT: He informed everyone that DPT is currently handing out warning notices but strict enforcement will follow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Thomas George-Williams:** He states the industry welcomes the enforcement of white zones in front of the hotels, but at the Hilton Hotel drivers may not be able to wait until the citation are cited to limousines. He stated that over 800 drivers signed up to protest in front of the Hilton Hotel.
- **Barry Taranto:** He thanked Jerry Robbins, who he thinks is one of the best city employees the city has ever had. Mr. Robbins helps create solution where solution had not been found. He also thanked James Lee. He stated that the hotel manager at the Hilton is already aware of the letter but nothing has happened. He states that a list will be create of hotels that are in violation and abuse the white zones. He hopes that the sign shop will have completed the taxi stand and curb zone signatures. He suggested working with the Nikko Hotel to create a taxi stand because it is heavily used in the mornings. He hopes the enforcement works

because the limousines are a problem.

- **Gudu, Yellow Cab driver:** He is thankful for the white zone enforcement. He suggested the enforcement be conducted everyday. He stated if the hotels need taxi's they should facilitate taxi stands. He offered DPT a one-day service to show them how the limousines are blocking the zones.
- **Peter Witt:** You can't talk about hotel "limo" stands with adding to the equation hotel managers and their doormen. The hotel doormen control the white zones not DPT and illegally steer taxi customers to limos and not taxis. These are clearly hotel policies and not DPT. What possible action can this Commission take to resolve that? When you ask a hotel manager, how many complaints does it take to generate appropriate action towards doormen who repeatedly subscribe to bribery and extortion? You will not get an answer. When you ask a hotel manager who many limos does the hotel provide for free to the customers. Their answers are undefined and vague. DPT can't enforce those laws, but SFPD Taxi Detail can and should. It is called illegal solicitation by a third party without advanced notice. You may ask what is advanced notice or prearranged? Well defined by the S.F. Yellow pages under the words "legitimate limousines" if you ask one or two it's 1 hour.
- **Tone Lee:** He feel the taxi line is moving slower and slower. He believes that limousine drivers make good money and can afford to the pay their citations but cab drivers cannot. Limousine drivers occupy all the white zones because they do not care. He appreciates DPT enforcement efforts.
- **John Nakis, Yellow Cab:** He stated that DPT means well, but there are some traffic officers that avoid limousines and town cars. He stated that a score of taxi driver received citations just because they went to the bathroom and he feels that is ridiculous. He read the following statement "Do not leave your car unattended for any reason, if you are in desperate need to go to the bathroom, please take you car with you".
- **Robert Cesana, Yellow Cab, PDA:** He thanked everybody for getting the taxi industry this far. He believes that DPT is overwhelmed with enforcement and will be unable to do anything about white zone enforcement during early mornings and evenings. DPT has restraints on the number of meter maids they can employ. DPT sends their meter maids where it is more productive such as street sweeping.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

4B1 Commissioner Gillespie motioned to continue 4B1 (Taxicab Medallions - Jack Kwong) and requested further investigation be performed. Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion. (motion passes 4-3)

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire **NOES:** Breslin, Paek, Smith
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

Mr. Jack Kwong spoke on his own behalf and answer questions from the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He believes that 4B1 have discrepancies. He believes that fraud and violations has occurred. He recommended continuing 4B1 until further investigation could be done.
- **Inspector Farrell Suslow, S.F.P.D.-Taxi Detail:** Mr. Taranto did point out several things and raised the issue of Muni. Mr. Taranto suggested to Taxi Detail to request a continuance. Although Taxi Detail could not do a complete investigation, it is insufficient for Taxi Detail to request for a continuance. He spoke with supervisors at Muni and found out Mr. Kwong's schedule and is in conformance with driving a taxi. Mr. Kwong's position is supervisory and he does not drive for Muni.
- **Thomas George-Williams:** Mr. Kwong is not a full-time cab driver, he has another career. He recommended looking into the discrepancies before making the decision of awarding him a medallion because it is hard to get the medallion back.

4B2 **This item has been continued (4B2).**

4C1, 2 Item #4C1 and 2 was approved.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

4C3, 4 Item #4C3 and 4 was approved.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith

NOES: None
ABSENT: None

RECUSED: McGuire

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: As a reminder, the Board of Supervisor Budget Committee will hear the Taxi Commission budget on June 22nd beginning at 10:00 a.m. The 2004 Taxi Medallion will expire on June 30, 2005, the exchange will take place at the Taxi Commission office, 25 Van Ness Ave., Rm. 420 beginning Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24th from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. The old medallions must be return within 24 hours. The color scheme is to write one check payable to the S.F. Taxi Commission to cover the cost of all medallions listed at their company.

Sergeant Vince Simpson, S.F.P.D.-Taxi Detail: He gave an update on the recent series of vehicle thefts involving Yellow Cab Co-op. During the last three weeks, there has been a total of 8 cabs that have been taken. 7 of the 8 cabs involve taxicabs that were parked unattended when the vehicle was no longer in operation. Those vehicles were parked in different areas of city streets. One theft occurred while the driver was taking a lunch break and was still in operation and that theft occurred near Grant Avenue and the other thefts occurred south of Market Street. The suspect is believed to be a former employee or former cab driver that know the system. Yellow Cab Co-op has master keys involving many vehicles in the fleet so there are master keys out among drivers. The issues involving these particular thefts are primarily long-term lease drivers who are not necessarily complying with the Commission rules as far as leaving the vehicles in the company lot when they are not in operation. I have currently met with those long-term lease drivers regarding the rules. In addition, Yellow Cab Co-op is purchasing theft prevention equipment involving steering wheels and brake and that will be available for their drivers to help secure the vehicles if they are away from the car. As you read from the Examiner article, the suspect covers the security camera to try concealing their image. The Auto Detail relied on other types of evidence to try to identify who the suspect is and earlier thefts they weren't getting much cooperation from the long-term lease driver to allow those vehicle to be processed, because they wanted those cabs back in service, so the police were not able to process and fingerprint some of those vehicles. I have spoken with Yellow Cab Co-op management and the lease drivers and they will rectify the issue and continue to work with the Auto Detail in trying to identify and apprehend the perpetrators involved in these thefts.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS

Commissioner Smith: He requested to calendar for discussion and possible action on **1)** Companies changing dispatch without worker's compensation. Companies should not be allowed to change without providing proof of worker's compensation. **2)** Ways of finding out who carry workers compensation. There is confusing as to who have worker's compensation and who is supposed to have it. **3)** Allowing companies put into service 5 year-old vehicles with 60,000 miles. These vehicles are cheaper, which will help the companies. 4) allowing a 50-cent increase to the drop on the meter, because of gas prices.
Commissioner Kwok: He suggested getting information about what worker's compensation is acceptable in our city/county and which companies are providing worker's compensation and the companies that are not. He has doubts about what is the definition of acceptable worker's compensation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **John Nakis, Yellow Cab:** He displayed pictures of the San Francisco Airport operations taxicab lot. He states if anyone spent a few minute's there they would probably get a headache because of the electrical power station wires. He suggested the Taxi Commission address this problem with the health department.
- **Newell Heywood:** He stated that 3 years ago he purchased a CNG cab which he believe he had 4 years to run. After passing the G.T.U. inspection, he was told he could no longer run his cab because of the 350,000 mileage cap. He is requesting the Commission to waive the 350,000 mileage restriction.
- **Taso Zografos, S.F.T.A.:** Companies offer credit card services for drivers to be able to process fares. He states there are regulations that disallow or prevent companies from passing on the merchant fees onto either consumer or to the taxi drivers and therefore they absorb these fees. Some cab companies, because of the gate cap and their operational costs are unable to or at this time cannot offer credit card service. He wanted clarification for the City Attorney office in the case of a third party provider. He stated that there is an individual offering credit card services directly with drivers on a voluntary basis. They meet once a week and charge a usury fee for credit card transaction. He is looking for legal determination on that action.
- **Richard Hybels:** He is in the process of purchasing two new Crown Victoria cabs, which will cost $10,500 with tax and license and last year he paid around $8,300 for the same cars. He would the Commission to review and calendar Commission Smith request to allow companying to purchase 5 years old vehicles with 60,000 miles.
- **Robert Cesana:** He explained how he received a drive-away ticket at 175 Berry Street. He states if a customer requests to be dropped office at a certain location, he is legally obliged to take

them to their destination. He is asking the Commission to review either cab drivers have the power to refuse customers or public transportation comes first and drivers have to take customer where they are legally entitle to go.

- **Barry Taranto:** He believes the problem with the white zones is not between the taxi and limousine driver's, the issue is with the doorman. He states the white zones belong to the city and they have the right to use them for loading and unloading. Thanked Sergeant Simpson's staff for their enforcement efforts. The catering truck at the airport has raised their food and beverage prices. He said it was agreed upon by Taxi Detail and hotel management that they cannot charge per person, but the doorman still doing it. There is a problem with enforcement where private cars interfering with the cab zones.
- **Peter Witt:** First, I'm surprised to see such a lofty agenda tonight considering this Commission work habits are three hour days/two days a month. The driver representatives should step down gracefully. Something you may not be aware of Commissions is this petition that some drivers and I started back in 03 to reform this Commission. Something that I have neglected to follow up on, because we got a new Mayor. When will the PC&N hearing be held. It has been over a year and I'd like to know what my number on the waiting list. I'm sure all the other drivers on the list would like to know there's. Now back to my survey, Commissioners what are you afraid of me being right or you being wrong. Customer feed back is an essential ingredient when your running a good faith business. Deception and misrepresenting go hand in hand. In the covering up mismanagement and in conspiracy to deceive the public.
- **Tone Lee:** He stated that protesting in not a threat, it is a right the country gave to the small people. He believes the taxi drivers are losing a lot of money to the limousines. He believes that taxi drivers are small people that no one cares about. Some hotels are not fair to taxi drivers.
- **Thomas George-Williams:** He supports the protest in front of the Hilton hotel. Taxi drivers have been fighting for a longtime to get healthcare and still we do not have it. He said he thought the security camera were to be used for violet crimes, but now the cameras are being used to catch a car thief.
- **Carl Macmurdo, PDA:** On behalf of the Permit Holders Association we express our condolences to Commissioner Paek on the passing of her father and welcomed back.
- **Mark Gruberg:** He expressed his condolences to Commissioner Paek. He responded a comment made earlier regarding cab companies can save on cost if they stop offering credit card services. He believes that is an outrageous suggestion. He stated that every cab company in the city should offer credit card services. The less cash drivers have in the cab, the less change

the driver is likely to be the object of a robbery. He recommended that all cabs in the city accept credit card without charging the driver.

10. DISCUSSION ON RESULTS OF THE TAXI DETAIL'S LOST PROPERTY STINGS.

Sergeant Vince Simpson, SFPD - Taxi Detail: He gave a report on Taxi Detail's property stings that measure compliance of drivers at cab companies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Peter Witt:** This is such a mind debockel, I don't know where to start, who thought of it and why? This is so wrong and yet it fair to say it's S.F.P.D. top priority. Why hold driver responsible if the customer loses an item. This is a prefect example of the old school police policies. That puts all the blame on working drivers, while at the same time, turning a blind eye towards the owners and company's that commit fraud for personal profiteering. The only real difference is, that the owners and companies, are not artificially baited with flashy gifts. Like the drivers are targeted. It would seem to me that a net would catch far bigger fish then a single trap. This is an egregious solution to a misdiagnosed problem that has been this Commission's "M.O." from it's conception. As far as recovering lost items is concerned and it happens all the time and this item needs to be re-addressed.
- **Barry Taranto:** He said that these stings are necessary. because drivers need to develop good relationships with their customers. He suggested looking into educating drivers about their responsibility of turning in lost property.
- **Ruach Graffis:** She looks forward to having debit cards for paratransit, because every driver will have to give their customers receipts. So, if something happens in the cab the customer will have the date, the cab number and what type of taxi they are in.

11. HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO DO NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY GROUPS REGARDING TAXI SERVICE.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the proposal for neighborhood outreach. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: She gave the Commission a proposal on the need for the taxi industry to do community outreach.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Peter Witt:** Our temporary executive director may not recall the last meetings we had in the Hunters Point neighborhood, not one person from the public showed. Just a few City Human Resourcers. You remember President Jackson how much cost extra to set-up that hearing? And that was the second such meeting in the same neighborhood. What's so special about the section of town. And why not Pacific Heights or Nob Hill, they use cabs don't they? Don't you think they might have problem. I notice the words "outreach to groups" - groups of six or more can't take a cab that

12. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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June 28, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the June 14, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Hearing on Airport Flat Rate (DISCUSSION)
9. Hearing on the Installation of Sineage in Taxicabs Regarding Illegal Taxis and Limousines. (DISCUSSION)
10. Hearing on a Resolution Urging Assemblyman Leno to Draft Legislation Defining Prearrangement. (DISCUSSION)(POSSIBLE ACTION)
11. Adjournment

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Taxicab Permit to:

	Medallion	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Jay Rosaves	269	Luxor Cab

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for disapproval of a Taxicab Permit to:

	Medallion	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Jack Kwong	322	Bay Cab

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Ramp Medallion Permit to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Company
1.	Sergey Ponomarchuk	9055	American Cab

D. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Comfort Cab Color Scheme.

E. Discussion and Possible Approval of Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme to be effective July 11, 2005 – August 11, 2005. Applicant is Luxor Cab Company Medallion Nos. 823, 136, 1214.

F. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Change to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1.	William W. Wieland	271	Veterans to S.F. American Taxi
2.	Faramarz Golshan	398	Yellow Cab Co-op to Arrow Cab
3.	Emad F. Shehadeh	172	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
4.	Lawrence Gerald Paul	376	Arrow Cab to Veterans Cab
5.	Abdulbaki Gudu	9012	Yellow Co-op to Comfort Cab
6.	Jilch Sambi	9003	Luxor Cab to Comfort Cab
7.	Elias Negash	9069	DeSoto Cab to Comfort Cab

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the July 12, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant a time waiver to Brain J. Jue.

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
Aron Rushinsky		

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

	Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1.	*Mahfouz M. Elmashni*	*1042*	*Crown Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
2.	*Hoi Shen Lam*	*351*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
3.	*Pablo Gravador*	*536*	*Luxor Cab to Union Cab*
4.	*Stephen K. Tan*	*1153*	*Arrow Cab to Royal Taxi*
5.	*Ralph Conforti*	*545*	*Veterans Cab to S.F. American Taxi*
6.	*Austin B. James*	*825*	*Sunset Cab to Bay Cab*
7.	*Linus Oha*	*9060*	*ABC Taxi to S.F. American Taxicab*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities may call Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180 to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Adele Destro, Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 234, by phone at (415) 554-7719, by fax at (415) 554-5163 or by e-mail at AdeleDestro@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317; web site: sfgov.org/ethics.

WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

June 28, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

8/05

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
June 28, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith

ABSENT:

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

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STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Lieutenant Jeannie Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

2. **ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 14, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.**

   Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Paek seconded the motion.

   AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: Breslin

RECUSED: None

4. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Taxicab Permit - Jay Rosaves). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Gillespie motioned to disapprove 4B (Taxicab Permit - Jack Kwong). Commissioner McGuire seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Lieutenant Jeanne Schlotz, SFPD-Taxi Detail: She gave a detail report on the discrepancies for Mr. Jack Kwong waybills.

Mr. Jack Kwong: He spoke on his own behalf.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He appreciates Lieutenant Schlotz and Taxi Detail conclusive investigation. He stated the Mr. Kwong had serious discrepancies on his waybills and he appreciates the Commission reviewing his application.
- **Zareh Soghikian:** Mr. Kwong's application disturbs him. He states the Mr. Kwong has not made any money from driving a taxi, only to fulfill his driving requirement. He urged the Commission to deny the request of Mr. Kwong.

4C Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C (Ramp Permit). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

4D Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4D (Comfort Cab). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Inspector Farrell Suslow, SFPD-Taxi Detail: He advised Comfort Cab to change their vehicle colors from red with yellow writing to black doors with yellow writing.

Abdulbaki Gudu, Comfort Cab: Answered questions from the Commission.

4E Commissioner Smith motion to approve 4E (Taxicab Wrap Permit Nos. 823, 136, 1214). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. (motion passes 6-1)

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** Gillespie
ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Tanya Penman, London Fleet's Director of Marketing & Media Sales: She provided an overview of the ad campaign and responded to questions from the Commission.

4F2,3,5 Commissioner Smith motion to approve 4F2, 3, and 5 (Color Scheme Changes). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None

RECUSED: Gillespie

4F1,4,6,7 Commissioner Smith motion to approve 4F1, 4, 6, and 7 (Color Scheme Changes). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Paek, Smith **NOES:** None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Bruce Oka:** He is in support of Comfort Cab. He had some concerns regarding there being no written documentation of picking up orders. He wants to see their current record of picking up paratransit orders.
- **Nathan Dwiri, Yellow Cab Co-op:** He spoke about the quality of service of Comfort Cab. He has known Mr. Gudu since 1994. He stated he is happy to see them trying to form a company specifically for paratransit service. He would like to see more ramp taxis join Comfort Cab. He urged the Commission to approve Comfort Cab.

5. STAFF REPORT

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: The Taxi Commission budget passed through the initial round. The only recommendation was to reduce the budget by $3,500. There will be another additional cut to materials and supplies. The next hearing will be held on June 29th at 2:00 p.m. at the Board's Chambers. She informed the Commission of her resignation as Acting Director of the Taxi Commission. Her last day with the Commission will be July 20, 2005. She has received an incredible offer in New York as Director of Communication.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS.

This item is being continued until next hearing.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** It was a good weekend for cabbies. He thanked Officer Crisp because the Broadway/Columbus St. issues are working. He feel that cab drivers need better public relations and need to drive more safely and be more courteous, he suggested improving drivers training.
- **Thomas George-Williams:** He suggested that rules be established for properly filling out waybills. He suggested investigating permit #945. The Broadway issue is working nicely.
- **Gudu:** He is pleading with the Commission to hire a limousine inspector. He believes it will be difficult to enforce the new limousine laws without an inspector.

- **Robert Cesana, PDA:** Kelly Castagnaro has done a fantastic job. He spoke about DPT. He stated that between 7:00 and 9:00 am there is no stopping in the financial district. He suggested a dialog with the supervisor's transportation committee or MTA. He said it took nine months to get DPT to talk about the white zones at hotels. People resent cabs not stopping to pick them up and yet drivers get tickets if we do.
- **Tone Lee:** Thanked the Commission for having their doors open for cab drivers could bring their concerns. He states his taxi doors are open for everybody. He states that he looses lot of fares at the hotels. Taxi drivers have already had background checks. He said that limousine must have prearrangement.
- **Jim Gillespie, SFTA:** He is speaking on behalf of San Francisco Taxi Association. He is opposed to Kelly Castagnaro's resignation. Ms. Castagnaro has done a tremendous job. Thanked her as Executive Director for her services.

8. HEARING ON AIRPORT FLAT RATE.

Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: She gave a presentation on the pros and cons of having a flat rate to the airport.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He applauded Acting Director Castagnaro for bring this topic for discussion. He believes the flat rate is an excuse for not having to deal with the limousines that are undercutting the taxi drivers at hotels. He feels the issue to address is how to deal with the competition of the limousines and the door staff at hotels. He stated there are already informal groups of taxi drivers that work in networks of charging flat rate plus tip rather than instituting a flat rate with the unstableness of economy.
- **Margo Miranda, Permit #933:** She stated the flat rate concept did not work because it was too confusing. She believes that flat rate is a terminology that is used by limousines to get their business done because they don't have meters. She suggested sticking with the meter rate for better customer relations.
- **Zareh Soghikian:** He stated that 15 years ago the flat rate was experienced which was only a couple of dollars less than the regular meter rate. It will be confusing to have a flat rate in different districts.
- **Thomas George-Williams, UTW:** He stated that he privately offer flat rate to passengers who call him in advance. He stated that people do not care about the flat rate but love the personal service. The problem with the flat rate from hotels is that the meter must be on to have insurance with a passenger in the car. He opposed the flat rate it is not a good idea. He suggested

making the door staff and limousines play by the rules.

- **John Nakis, Yellow Cab:** He stated the flat rate was tried three times before, it did not work. He believes there should be an increase for gas, not cutting their rates. If taxi drivers cut there rate it means competing with the limousines.
- **Ed Burke, DeSoto Cab:** A flat rate is a bad idea because it caused conflicts between passengers and drivers and a lot of confusion. He recommended sticking with the meter because passenger understands what is going on.
- **Tone Lee:** The last flat rate was in 1981. He explained to a customer that the flat rate is from the door of the hotel to the door of the airport. He believes it is very clear and not confusing. He believes that flat rate will bring more customers into taxis.
- **Robert Cesana:** He is not speaking on behalf of PDA. He stated the rule is "you can charge any rate in this city so long as it is not more than the meter rate". He suggested to drivers if they could produce enough signatures of drivers, not of medallion holders or taxi companies but of drivers that they want to do a flat rate from city hotels to the airport then the Commission should endorse the flat rate. This is a way to put more taxis in front of hotels.
- **Edwin Santiago, DeSoto Cab:** He is opposed to the flat rate. If people want a good deal or a flat rate, they should take Bart. Instead of hotels having white zones, they should have taxi zones.
- **Phil Sterlin, Permit #55, DeSoto Cab:** He thinks that the flat rate that was tried a few years ago wasn't a good idea because of the multiple destinations. The flat rate does not solve problems it creates more problems. He suggested enforcing the laws regarding limousines. Flat rates will confuse the public.
- **Diane Putnam:** She is opposed to a flat rate because it will create problems. She stated a simple solution is to stated that no limousine can park more than 5 minutes at any hotel.
- **Adam Mukmammadieu:** If taxis have a flat rate from the airport it will be the best deal right now. He feels this will bring more business into the taxi industry. A flat rate to the airport is a way to make more money.
- **Gudu:** He believes the industry is jumping the gun because DPT has started enforcing the white zone and he proposed hiring an inspector to curb the illegal limousine in front of hotels. Most drivers are frustrated about what goes on in front of hotels, which is taxi driver's fares are being stolen by door staff in conjunction with the limousines.
- **Ahmad Albouyha:** He stated the flat rate is good in a way because we're losing 70 percent of the business to limousines. There were 50 limousines 15 years ago when the flat rate was tried, now there are 980 illegal limousines. He recommended trying the flat rate from downtown hotels to the airport.
- **Elias Negash:** He used to put a lot of effort into picking up a fare from the city going to the airport but now he going to the airport

empty because of the problems with the limousines. He suggested looking into the dealing between the door staff and limousines. Passengers are asking for taxis and the door staff are recommending limousines for the door staff can get their commission for the limousine drivers.

- **Ruach Graffis, UTW:** UTW appreciated the Taxi Commission efforts trying to help the drivers fight the limousine. But the real help would be to enforce the limousine laws not reduce the amount of money that the cab driver can charge below the meter. UTW voted against the flat rate because they did not think this is good as an industry policy. She recommended allowing the DPT enforcement of white zones work before reducing drivers income any further.
- **Mike Dajani:** He suggested giving an incentive to passengers to take taxis before the door staff puts them into limousines. The flat rate is from the hotel to the airport and if you don't want to call it a flat rate, call it a discount, an incentive because we need more passengers in cabs. He believes it will not cause a conflict.
- **Ken Louie:** He wanted to clarify to some drivers that the flat rate is only from the hotel to the airport. It does not apply to make multi stop.

9. **HEARING ON THE INSTALLATION OF SINEAGE IN TAXICABS REGARDING ILLEGAL TAXIS AND LIMOUSINES.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** This item came from a recent meeting regarding the problems with limousines and certain hotels. He suggested enlisting a graphic artist to make the signage more appealing. He feels the appearance is more important than the wordage. He recommended changing the last line to "San Francisco Taxis get you where you need to go".
- **Ruach Graffis, UTW:** She loves the sign, the only problem is the last paragraph that display she believes the customers will be confused.
- **Thomas George-Williams:** He stated that a big point is S.F. Taxis carry insurance whereas illegal cabs and limousines carry no insurance. This is dangerous for the public.

10. **HEARING ON A RESOLUTION URGING ASSEMBLYMAN LENO TO DRAFT LEGISLATION DEFINING PREARRANGEMENT.**

This item is being continued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **John Nakis:** He believes the legal limousines should follow the

guidelines for prearrangement. With illegal limousines, the public is unaware if their driver is an ex-convict. The laws should be applied to illegal limousine companies as well as legal limousine companies.

- **Barry Taranto:** Thanked Acting Director Castagnaro for preparing the resolution. He urged the Commission to approve the resolution tonight. He thinks the resolution should thank Assemblyman Leno for helping introduced and enacted AB2591. The State PUC indicated they rather see state legislation come from Sacramento.
- **Robert Cesana:** He commended everybody who had anything to do with pursuing the limousine issues, it is should a long process. Recommended that everyone send in letters and maybe the next generation of cab drivers will benefit from this.
- **Carl Macmurdo:** Thanked the Commission for their diligence in pursuing this matter.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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July 12, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the June 28, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report
6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Presentation to Jimi Harris on behalf of the San Francisco Taxi Commission.
9. Hearing on a Resolution Urging Assemblyman Leno to draft Legislation Defining Prearrangement. (continued from 6/28/05)(ACTION)
10. Hearing on the Installation of Sineage in Taxicabs Regarding Illegal Taxis and Limousines. (continued from 6/28/05)(DISCUSSION)(POSSIBLE ACTION)
11. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
July 12, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Taxicab Permit to:

	Medallion	Cab #	Color Scheme
1.	Aron Rushinsky	696	Royal Taxi

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant a time waiver to Brain J. Jue.

C. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Citation for Violations by Bay Cab Company
2. Approval of Revocation of Permit #9004, held by Ishtiaq Bokhari

D. Approval of adjustment in colors by Comfort Cab Color Scheme.

E. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
	1. Mahfouz M. Elmashni	1042	Crown Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
*	2. Hoi Shen Lam	351	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op ***(Request Withdrawn)***
	3. Pablo Gravador	536	Luxor Cab to Union Cab
*	4. Stephen K. Tan	1153	Arrow Cab to Royal Taxi ***(Request Withdrawn)***
	5. Ralph Conforti	545	Veterans Cab to S.F. American Taxi
*	6. Austin B. James	825	Sunset Cab to Bay Cab ***(Request Withdrawn)***
	7. Linus Oha	9060	ABC Taxi to S.F. American Taxicab

(* Applicants request has been withdrawn (see letters))

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the July 26, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 45 each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant time waivers to: 1. Darren Jue 2. Ibrahim Awwad

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

	Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1.	*Fadel Jawdat Zaru*	*942*	*DeSoto Cab to Union Cab*
2.	*Rene Clement Deliege*	*199*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies o the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities may call Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180 to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

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Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Adele Destro, Interim Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by e-mail at sotf@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

July 12, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
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MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

23
2
1/12/05

MINUTES

Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
July 12, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Kwok, Paek

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PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:40 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Castagnaro, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Lieutenant Jeannie Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

Item #8 was heard next.

8. PRESENTATION TO JIMI HARRIS ON BEHALF OF THE SAN FRANCISCO TAXI COMMISSION.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty presented a proclamation to Mr. Jimi Harris for his services.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 28, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.**

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

4A Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve 4A (Taxicab Permit - Aron Rushinsky). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith **NOES:** None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Breslin motioned to approve 4B (Time Waiver - Brain Jue). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-1

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Smith **NOES:** McGuire
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He stated that Brain Jue's letter did not mention a reason for requesting a waiver. He believes that time waiver should be reserved for people who have been in the industry. He suggested looking at the procedures and determining if someone gets a time waiver.
- **Brain Jue:** Thanked the Commission for hearing his case. He explained to the Commission why he is requesting a time waiver.
- **Peter Witt, native San Franciscan, Yellow Cab-17yrs.:** He questioned Brain Jue's intent whether he will become a full-time driver. He questioned when did Mr. Jue apply to become a cab driver.
- **Thomas George-Williams, U.T.W.:** He stated that medallions are for working cab drivers. Somebody put Mr. Jue's name on the list

and now that a medallion is available, Mr. Jue wants to become a cab driver.

4C1 **This item is being continued until July 26, 2005 (Bay Cab Company).**

4C2 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the revocation of 4C2 (Permit #9004, held by Ishtiaq Bokhari). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek

RECUSED: None

Sherry Gendelman, Attorney: She spoke of behalf of Mr. Ishtiaq Bokhari. She urged the commission to reject the recommendation of the hearing officer.

Sergeant Vince Simpson, SFPD-Taxi Detail: Presented the case on behalf of Taxi Detail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He stated that he and other colleagues have observed Mr. Bokhari using a non-San Francisco taxi to pick up and drop off passengers. If Mr. Bokhari was really interested in clearing his name and retaining his license, why does he continued to break other laws by operating in San Francisco without using a non-San Francisco taxicab.

4D Commissioner Smith motion to approve 4D (Adjustment in colors for Comfort Cab). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek

RECUSED: None

4E1 Commissioner Smith motion to approve 4E1 (Color Scheme Changes). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek

RECUSED: Gillespie

4E3,5,7 Commissioner Gillespie motion to approve 4E3, 5 and 7 (Color Scheme Changes). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek

RECUSED: None

5. STAFF REPORT

President Arthur Jackson: He read the following statement prepared by the City Attorney into record. It has come to my attention that there has been some confusion in the community about who speaks for this Commission. I have been told that third-parties may be suggesting that they represent the Commission's interest in private discussions. Let me be very clear, the only people authorized to speak on behalf of the Commission are the Executive Director, the Commission as a collect body and myself. Any other persons claiming to speak on behalf of the Commission are wrong and misrepresenting yourselves as a city official is illegal.
Kelly Castagnaro, Acting Executive Director: Tonight is her last meeting and she thanked everyone for the opportunities of serving the city further. She thanked everyone for their patient. She requested that if everyone would be respectful of the Commission staff during this transition and requested that everyone make an appointment first before coming to the Commission office.
Sergeant Vince Simpson, S.F.P.D.-Taxi Detail: He was pleased to announce an arrest on Friday night related to the series of cab thefts at Yellow Cab Co-op. The investigation is currently ongoing involving the Auto Detail. The results of that arrest was based on the fact that the driver made a timely report and the description of the cab was broadcasted and officers that were in the area spotted the cab and made the arrest within a five-minute period. He wanted to encourage all drivers to report incident immediately. He explained the enforcement procedures for out-of-town cabs and limousine violations. These procedures have been distributed to all department members, along with a cheat sheet to assist them on how to locate out-of-town cabs, unlicensed cabs and what action to take. The legislation regarding waybills inspections involving AB2591 is still pending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab, 17 yrs:** He is very sorry to see Kelly Castagnaro go without any warning. He questioned how long before a replacement will be found because of the urgency. He

stated when the Taxi Commission did not have an Executive Director, it failed to record and post its minutes. He is happy to hear about the arrest report. He suggested notification be given to cab drivers because cab driver out number the police officers on the streets and cab drivers can record the license plate number of out-of-town cabs and limousines.

- **Mark Gruberg:** He thanked Kelly Castagnaro for the work she has done with the Commission and her openness to everybody in the industry. He suggested that the Commission get involved in seeing the Commission office is full staffed, since the taxi industry is paying the cost for a fully staffed office.
- **Jane Bolig:** She believes the Commission has been lucky to have had Naomi Little and Kelly Castagnaro. Kelly has demonstrated her ability to deal with issues and to work with many different people and different factions effectively. She can testify to Kelly's effectiveness because she has had the opportunity to work with Kelly. She hope the city takes the Commission more seriously and get a director who will be as effective as the past two directors.

6. TAXI COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST TO CALENDAR ITEMS.

Commissioner Gillespie: He thanked Kelly Castagnaro and wished her good luck. The Commission has had two extraordinary women that held the job. Kelly had acting in front of her title, but there was nothing acting about it because she was doing all the work. She assisted me in a lot of things, but especially the Hybrid Taxi Program.
Commissioner Smith: Requested to calendar hearings on: 1) a way to determine that the proper documents for workers' compensation is turned in. 2) putting five-year old cab into service for four-years with 60,000 miles, with a maximum mileage of 400,000. 3) adding a $0.50 drop to the meter because of the rising gas prices.
Commissioner Breslin: She seconded everyone's expression of affection and pride in what has been accomplished in the Taxi Commission through our Acting Director and wishing her all the best in New York City. 1) Requested to set as a priority on the calendar, finding an executive director. She suggested looking at the previous candidates who have already been through the interview process. She made comments on the white zone enforcement. The white zone enforcement is backfiring at this point. The hotel guests are becoming the victim because they are the ones who are being ticketed. She relayed a message to all drivers that there must be room for guest cars to check in/out at hotels. She will be working with DPT to ensure that we find a way around the guest cars. 2) She reiterated that it is illegal for a taxi cab driver to use a cell phone while a passenger is in the cab. 3) Requested an audit of all Taxicab Training Schools. She requested to be apart of the audits. If any member of the public would like to file a compliant or acknowledge a driver to write down the

medallion number, the name of the taxicab company, the number on the side of the cab and include where you were picked up, your destination and the time of day.
Commissioner McGuire: Requested to calendar a hearing on 1) refusal of convey. She continues to see the same driver refusing to pick up persons of color. If this should happen to you, please call Taxi Detail at (415) 553-1447 or Taxi Commission at (415) 503-2180. 2) Investigation into the overhead ducts at the San Francisco Airport parking lot. Would like to know if these ducts are harmful. 3) Requested to invite the General Manager of the Hilton Hotel to attend a Commission hearing to explain the hotel policies regarding the relationship between the doormen and limousines. She requested to adjourn tonight's hearing in the memory of Mike Sealy who was a really nice guy and long time ramp taxi driver.
PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Barry Taranto:** He requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of Mike Sealy. He stated that he is upset the private cars are getting ticketed and that was not the purpose. He suggested looking at the valet because they must keep the cars moving in a timely manner. He suggested that a State Fund representative verify blanket policies to ensure all cabs are covered. He suggested more and better training. The invitation to the Hilton hotel manager should have occurred previously.
- **Peter Witt:** In referring to the white zones, if the city is getting income from the tickets issued by DPT, he would say it's a success and not a failure. He believes that the incentive to be a career cab driver is abominable. He has completed his 2005 survey and has tallied the rough numbers. He urged the Commission to look at his data.
- **Mark Gruberg:** He commented on Commissioner McGuire request to have a representative from the Hilton Hotel to attend a Commission hearing. He provided background to the Commission about the bad blood between the taxi driver and the Hilton hotel. He stated the Hilton has been one of the main hotels at which a huge proportion of the rides are shunted into limousines and town cars, rather than waiting taxicabs. He read excerpts from an agreement made between driver and Hilton hotel representatives.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **Barry Taranto:** He feels there is a deliberate interference by Commissioners rather than a interest to understand what the issues are. He said that the hotel has failed to listen to the drivers. He is concerned that the driver concerns are failing on deaf ears. He thanked Kelly Castagnaro who has made taxis a top name at city department meetings and other Commissioners and for all her hard work.

- **Tone Lee:** He said that everyone that lives in this city should be happy. San Francisco has the best law enforcement. He states the city needs a jump start.
- **Peter Witt:** The Taxi Commission should define prearranged and let someone else redefine it if it is wrong. The Commission should beef up enforcement at hotels. Stream line the compliant process and review all limo data on a regular bases. He is a poor smuck Yellow Cab driver for 17 years. Remember this petition in 1999, signed by over 500 drivers, that opposed the new taxi regulations. Which was rushed through blindly in the first month of your existence. Without an executive director. For almost two years this commission operated without an executive director which may, mysteriously, explain why there are no records for that period in the archives. For seven years, this commission has hoodwinked the local residents and drivers alike for either personal or political gains. Sound policy's are based on exactly what this commission doesn't have, a combination of accrete info. Thoughtful insight and good intentions. Selectively choosing what ever evident suits your interest is what you do best.
- **Thomas George-Williams, UTW:** He suggested maybe looking into the cab drivers training schools and the testing by SFPD before drivers received their A-cards. He welcomes the invitation to the Hilton hotel manager. He states the drivers had an appointment today with the Hilton but with Commissioner interference, the meeting was cancelled. He stated that protesting their demands, which are not allowing any person to accept tips or kickback, respect the white zones, and prearrangements for limousines are made inside the hotel.
- **Yale Feder:** He is a veteran cab driver but not from Veteran Cab Company, although he would like to drive one of their medallions. He wanted to discuss the 25 medallions currently being held by Veteran Cab Company. Prop. K clearly states shares in a company that hold corporate medallions, if transferred, all medallions must be returned to the city and re-issued. The medallions have not be returned and he urged the Commission to agendize the Veteran Corporate Permits.
- **John Nakis:** He applauded the previous speaker. He wanted attention to the illegal taxi cabs and how it's becoming a problem all over the city. He displayed an article for the Examiner newspaper regarding gypsy cabs in the Peninsula.
- **David Pilpel:** He states the Commission hearings are interesting. He thanked the Commissioners for continuing to serve the city, which is clearly not an easy job. He thanked Kelly Castagnaro for her hard work.
- **Patricia Webb:** She is a paratransit client in a wheelchair and wanted to make a formal complaint to the Commission because she has tried everything. She is having a problem of trying to get a ramp van taxi. The only way she has been successful in getting a

taxi is when he or she would give me their cell phone number so that I could reach them personally. Then to add insult to injury when I'm lucky enough to get a personal ramp driver sometimes their taxi is broken and there are no spare available. She has tried to complain, but everyone keeps passing the buck back and forth. Due to this situation, she has missed several appointment and some have charged her a fee because I didn't arrive on time. Because of these continuous problems, she has two full books of expired taxi scrip. To you this might be unimportant, but I am of a very fixed and very low-income so for me every penny counts. She would appreciate some help with this problem.

9. HEARING ON A RESOLUTION URGING ASSEMBLYMAN LENO TO DRAFT LEGISLATION DEFINING PREARRANGEMENT.

Commissioner Smith motion to approve forwarding the resolution to Assemblymember Leno. Motion Withdrawn
Commissioner Smith motioned to continue this item.
Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **John Nakis:** He believes the resolution is unnecessary. He states there is a definition of prearrangement. Gypsy cabs are not supposed to be in the city, unless they are responding to a prearrangement call.
- **Mark Gruberg:** He thinks a resolution of this nature is logical consequence because the PUC did not listen to the taxi industry pleads, so the next logical step is to go to the State legislature. He has some concerns about the language used in the resolution. He suggested hiring inspectors or investigators dedicated to enforcing these laws.
- **Peter Witt, Yellow Cab driver 17 yrs, native San Franciscan:** He agreed with John Nakis, the resolution is not necessary. He suggested that the Taxi Commission define prearrangement on its own and he suggested one hour. He asked if this Commission have the power to propose legislation.
- **Carl Macmurdo:** He feels this is a confusing issue. He understands that it would be better for drivers if there were an hour prearrangement requirement but the problems the industry wants to address is that some of the hotel doormen are corrupt and shepherding rides away from taxis which is devastating the income of taxi drivers. He suggested waybill enforcement as a way to correct the problems. He suggested putting pressure of the violators.
- **Ivana:** She requested to have Patricia Webb phone number read into the records, so that any cab company representatives can

contact her themselves.

10. HEARING ON THE INSTALLATION OF SINEAGE IN TAXICABS REGARDING ILLEGAL TAXIS AND LIMOUSINES.

Commissioner Gillespie motioned to continue this item at the call of the chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Peter Witt:** He is opposed to the signage because it is far too passive approach at this point, there needs to be aggressive enforcement. It does not address the problem of doormen and hotels at white zones or red ones. Are we going to include limousine prices to? It is said that even bad publicity is better than none. How about the proper lighting during the times when most of these offences occur. What about the wording, will it be short and to the point in big easy to read lettering or so wordy that it will be over looked by most people making it pointless waste of time and money. He don't think we should scare the public unnecessarily. Also the space, it may take up, could be used of one of many better uses, like reminds the customers abut leaving lost items, cab I.D. number in the event a customer does lose an item, and maps of all taxi stands.
- **Thomas George-Williams:** He feels the public should be scared because they may enter a cab that is illegal which may not have insurance in case of an accident.
- **Mark Gruberg:** He feels that something along this signage is appropriate, but he is not sure that this language does the trick. He suggested that drivers prepare a fliers warning the public and distributing it to passengers because drivers can convey their message more effectively.
- **Norma Geer:** She thinks the signage is a good idea but would prefer a more pointed version mentioning the link between hotel personnel. She suggested implementing on a trail basis for a specified period of time and making it fairly brief.
- **Carl Macmurdo:** He suggested designing a professional brochure that would be in the cabs. He provided examples like pictures of legal cabs versus illegal, price breakdowns of what the meter reading is to the airport from various hotels. The brochure could educate the public and cover a lot of ground and various interest groups can also participate in creating this brochure.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting in the memory of Mike Sealy at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks

Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

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KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

July 26, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes for the July 12, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

5. Staff Report

6. Taxi Commission Announcements and Request to Calendar Items.

7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

8. Discussion and Presentation on TODO Magazine, by Free Media Group, LLC. (DISCUSSION)

9. CLOSED SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
   a. Public comment on all matters pertaining to the closed session.
   b. Vote on whether to hold closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding threatened litigation relating to Veterans Taxicab Co. (SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d).) [ACTION]
   c. Conference with legal counsel in closed session. (CA Government Code §§ 54956.9(b)(1); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d)(2).) One possible case as defendant.
   d. Reconvene in open session:
      1. Possible report on action taken in closed session and the vote thereon. SF Administrative Code § 67.12(b).)[ACTION]
      2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. (SF Administrative Code § 67.12(a).) [ACTION]

10. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
July 26, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Alvin Aragon	Dugan Archer	Francisco DaSilva	Moacir DeOliveira
Nicholas Desantis	Charles Dobson, Jr.	Fitsum Ghebreegziabher	Kim Him
Gary Hubbard	Qaiser Iqbal	Kristopher Kelley	Paulo Mendes
William Mercado	Rafael Mora	Angaldo Noguiera	Younis Raza
Umesh Risal	John Rubio, Jr.	Shamansur Shausmanov	Baldev Singh
Mesfin Sinke	Sune Yee	Simeon Zerabruk	Safwan Allababidi
Afewerki Asmelash	Apolon Beraia	Derek Chan	Abdulfetah Hussen
Gino Mallamo	Ahmed Masherah	Antonio Murillo	Chau Nguyen
Nguyen Nguyen	Quan Nguyen	Byron Ogada	Phone Oo
Henrique Pereira	Isabel Ramos	Victor Rivera	Anna Rozymuradov
Sohan Singh	Fahd Almansob	Seven Elias	Alexander Gevorkyan
Mohamad Hamada	Adil Jafri	Mohammad Khan	Christopher Mitchell
Rameses Muslim	Aminullah Nabizad	Jimmy Ngo	Amin Ram
Osama Rashid	Gurdeep Singh	Carlos Candeo	Yao Chen
Deon Colombini	Ivo DePaula	Rogeriio DeSousa	Eiad Eltawil
Konstantin Fatalov	Milton Figueiredo	Kate Finneran	Kaleab Gebreyes
David Goldschmidt	Mustageem Humayoun	Saeed Iqbal	Dmitrijs Jermoljevs
Yevgeniy Klyuyev	Pet Kyu	Michael Lung	Issam Meftahi
Maung Myint	Saulo Pereira	Thanh Pham	Wai Phyo
Gijana Raut	Oleh Rutko	Rasheed Sayed	Jose Sobrinho
Muhammad Tahir	Gebreamlak Tekle	Htoi Yaw	Serkan Aksu
Logman Alhaj	Jamal Alsharafi	Mekonnen Areda	Hlwan Aung
David Field	Yemane Getahun	Svyatolslav Goldenshteyn	Byron Johnson
Kovran Karakulov	Yassir Khairi	Baikuntha Khanal	Lin Khine
Thura Ko	Victorino Lapena	Kyaw Linn	Evgeny Lobkanov
Dal Magar	Patrick McCollum	Itamar Medeiros	Neji Mejri
Alan Mikshansky	Aung Myat	John Penman, Jr.	Phouc Quach
Manuel Quintana	Rolando Rieken	Tigran Sargsyan	Teklu Segni
Shihab Sheikheldin	Santokh Singh	Thupten Tsering	Carlos Wong

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant a time waivers to:
1. Darren Jue 2. Ibrahim Awwad

C. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Citation for Violations by Bay Cab Company

D. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
*	1. Fadel Jawdat Zaru	942	DeSoto Cab to Union Cab ***(Request Postponed)***
	2. Rene Clement Deliege	199	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op

(* Applicant requested a postponement (see letters))

E. Possible approval for an extension of Taxicab Wrap for Luxor Cab Company Medallion Nos. 823, 136 and 1214. Originally approved for July 11th – August 11, 2005. Requesting to run the campaign until September 30, 2005.

NOTICE

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Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant time waiver to: Gary Bellotti

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Dilbagh Singh Toor	*839*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
2. Mike Dashti	*1230*	*DeSoto Cab to Union Cab*
3. Alireza Behpour	*1016*	*Bay Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
4. Salvador Rodriquiz	*379*	*Royal Taxi to DeSoto Cab*
5. Michael Newell Burns	*1141*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
6. Kwan Tat Ming	*197*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
7. Allen B. Gelder	*300*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils an other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberation are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your righ under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinanc contact Adele Destro, Interim Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodle Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by e-mail at sotf@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printin Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Pleas be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing o use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, se 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

July 26, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE
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KELLY CASTAGNARO, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3
6/05

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
July 26, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Breslin; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Jackson; Gillespie; Kwok; Paek

VICE PRESIDENT BRESLIN CANCELLED THE HEARING FOR LACK OF A QUORUM AT 6:40 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Lieutenant Jeannie Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Inspector Farrell Suslow - Taxi Detail

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1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 28, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

5. STAFF REPORT

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION ON TODO MAGAZINE, BY FREE MEDIA GROUP, LLC.

8. CLOSED SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LILTIGATION

9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks
Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

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HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes for the July 12, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

5. Staff Report

6. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

7. Discussion and Presentation on TODO Magazine, by Free Media Group, LLC. (DISCUSSION)

8. CLOSED SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
   a. Public comment on all matters pertaining to the closed session.
   b. Vote on whether to hold closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding threatened litigation relating to Veterans Taxicab Co. (SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d).) [ACTION]
   c. Conference with legal counsel in closed session. (CA Government Code §§ 54956.9(b)(1); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d)(2).) One possible case as defendant.
   d. Reconvene in open session:
   1. Possible report on action taken in closed session and the vote thereon. (CA Government Code § 54957.1(a)(3); SF Administrative Code § 67.12(b).)[ACTION]
   2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. (SF Administrative Code § 67.12(a).) [ACTION]

9. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
August 9, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Alvin Aragon	Dugan Archer	Francisco DaSilva	Moacir DeOliveira
Nicholas Desantis	Charles Dobson, Jr.	Fitsum Ghebreegziabher	Kim Him
Gary Hubbard	Qaiser Iqbal	Kristopher Kelley	Paulo Mendes
William Mercado	Rafael Mora	Angaldo Noguiera	Younis Raza
Umesh Risal	John Rubio, Jr.	Shamansur Shausmanov	Baldev Singh
Mesfin Sinke	Sune Yee	Simeon Zerabruk	Safwan Allababidi
Afewerki Asmelash	Apolon Beraia	Derek Chan	Abdulfetah Hussen
Gino Mallamo	Ahmed Masherah	Antonio Murillo	Chau Nguyen
Nguyen Nguyen	Quan Nguyen	Byron Ogada	Phone Oo
Henrique Pereira	Isabel Ramos	Victor Rivera	Anna Rozymuradov
Sohan Singh	Fahd Almansob	Seven Elias	Alexander Gevorkyan
Mohamad Hamada	Adil Jafri	Mohammad Khan	Christopher Mitchell
Rameses Muslim	Aminullah Nabizad	Jimmy Ngo	Amin Ram
Osama Rashid	Gurdeep Singh	Carlos Candeo	Yao Chen
Deon Colombini	Ivo DePaula	Rogeriio DeSousa	Eiad Eltawil
Konstantin Fatalov	Milton Figueiredo	Kate Finneran	Kaleab Gebreyes
David Goldschmidt	Mustageem Humayoun	Saeed Iqbal	Dmitrijs Jermoljevs
Yevgeniy Klyuyev	Pet Kyu	Michael Lung	Issam Meftahi
Maung Myint	Saulo Pereira	Thanh Pham	Wai Phyo
Gijana Raut	Oleh Rutko	Rasheed Sayed	Jose Sobrinho
Muhammad Tahir	Gebreamlak Tekle	Htoi Yaw	Serkan Aksu
Logman Alhaj	Jamal Alsharafi	Mekonnen Areda	Hlwan Aung
David Field	Yemane Getahun	Svyatolslav Goldenshteyn	Byron Johnson
Kovran Karakulov	Yassir Khairi	Baikuntha Khanal	Lin Khine
Thura Ko	Victorino Lapena	Kyaw Linn	Evgeny Lobkanov
Dal Magar	Patrick McCollum	Itamar Medeiros	Neji Mejri
Alan Mikshansky	Aung Myat	John Penman, Jr.	Phouc Quach
Manuel Quintana	Rolando Rieken	Tigran Sargsyan	Teklu Segni
Shihab Sheikheldin	Santokh Singh	Thupten Tsering	Carlos Wong

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant a time waivers to:
1. Darren Jue 2. Ibrahim Awwad

C. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Citation for Violations by Bay Cab Company. (***Continued until 8/23/05***)

D. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

	Medallion Holder	**Cab #**	**Change**
*	1. Fadel Jawdat Zaru	942	DeSoto Cab to Union Cab ***(postponed)***
	2. Rene Clement Deliege	199	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op

E. Possible approval for an extension of Taxicab Wrap for Luxor Cab Company Medallion Nos. 823, 136 and 12
Originally approved for July 11th – August 11, 2005. Requesting to run the campaign until September 30, 200

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Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant time waivers to:

1. *Gary Bellotti*
2. *Ciro Matarazzo III*
3. *Ronald Reissberg*

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Dilbagh Singh Toor	*830*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
2. Mike Dashti	*1230*	*DeSoto Cab to Union Cab*
3. Alireza Behpour	*1016*	*Bay Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
4. Salvador Rodriquiz	*379*	*Royal Taxi to DeSoto Cab*
5. Michael Newell Burns	*1141*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
6. Kwan Tat Ming	*197*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
7. Allen B. Gelder	*300*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
8. Antonio G. Vasquez	*53*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
9. Reynaldo Datlag	*1048*	*Bay Cab to Union Cab*

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Taxicab Commission

August 9, 2005

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MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
August 9, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith

ABSENT:

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Heidi Machen, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Lieutenant Jeannie Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson - Taxi Detail

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1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JULY 12, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Paek seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, McGuire RECUSED: None

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger Vehicle). Commissioner Paek seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: None

ABSENT: McGuire RECUSED: None

4B1 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B1 (Time Waiver - Darren Jue). Commissioner Paek seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-1

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: McGuire
ABSENT: None RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

· Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab: He requested that this item be sever. Legislation was passed that stated that anybody who did not comply with the driving requirement for 2005, that next year they would have to been driving for two years so why give exemptions.
· Barry Taranto: He appreciates the previous speaker comments. He stated that the Jue brothers have not shown any indication that they want to be cab drivers because they do not have their a-cards yet.

4C This item is being continued until August 23, 2005 (Bay Cab Company).

4D1 This item is being postponed (Fadel Jawdat Zaru).

4D2 Commissioner Smith motion to approve 4D2 (Color Scheme Change). Commissioner Paek seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, Paek, McGuire, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: None RECUSED: Gillespie

4E Commissioner Smith motion to approve 4E (Taxicab Wrap for Luxor permit nos. 823, 136 and 1214). Commissioner Paek seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-1

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, Paek, McGuire, Smith NOES: Gillespie
ABSENT: None RECUSED: None

5. STAFF REPORT

Heidi Machen, Executive Director: She introduced herself as the newly appointed executive director of the Taxicab Commission. She was the legislative aid and serving on the Board of Supervisors principally responsible for taxicab issues as well as other transportation issues. She is looking forward to working with the taxi industry. Her first priority will be to staff the Commission office. She updated the Commission on meetings that she has attended. At the Paratransit Coordinating Council, some of the issues were 1) some companies were not reimbursing drivers for their scrip until the companies received their reimbursements. This is a disincentive for picking up disable passengers by the drivers. 2) Some ramp drivers may be abusing their permit by intentionally presuming non-disable fares. The airport is keeping track of ramp taxis that repeatedly enter SFO. She also met with Muni and the Paratransit Broker to discuss incentives for the disabled community will get the best service possible.

Commissioner Smith requested to calendar 1) ways to determine workers' compensation policy for gate and gas drivers and the proper certificates. 2) a nine year plan, putting five year old vehicles on the road beginning mileage 65,000 or less and ending mileage 400,000. 3) raised the drop on the meter $0.50 to compensate

the high price of gasoline. 4) ADA credit for drivers on the waiting list who began ill and cannot full-fill the driving requirement when their names come up for a medallion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· Peter Witt: I'm very excited about the executive director, damage controller and S.P.U.R. member Heidi I've always wanted to meet you.
· Barry Taranto: Welcomed Heidi Machen to an important position in our city, which is long overdue. Ms. Machen has skills in working with other city departments and legal knowledge. He thanked Mayor Newsom for appointing Ms. Machen. He has concerns with the removal from the agenda for Commissioners request to calendar items. He feels it is important to hear from individual Commissioners about their concerns. He suggested a representative from State Fund attend the Commission hearing to discuss proof of workers' compensation.
· Carl Macmurdo, PDA: Welcomed the new executive director. He commented on Commissioner Smith's request regarding ADA. The PDA distributed a newsletter informing permit holders of their options for requesting ADA accommodations. He thanked Commissioner Smith for requesting to calendar the same requirement for waiting list applicants and looks forward to the discussion.
· Ruach Graffis, UTW: UTW thanks Heidi Machen and look forward to working with her. She will be an asset to the taxi industry.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

· Barry Taranto: He requested a hearing with PUC staff to discuss the problem that now that SFO Airporter does not exist, they are being replaced by super shuttle. Super shuttle are now showing up at hotels and waiting in the white zones, particularly at the Marriott Hotel. There is no prearrangement, they sit there until the door staff collects the passengers and load them into the van. He is not in favor of raising the drop on the meter at this point but suggested increasing taxi business.
· Robert Cesana, PDA, Yellow Cab: Suggested the executive secretary to represent the Commission because of the failure with DPT regarding enforcement of the white zones. Need a budget for someone to enforce the limousine laws. PDA would support an assessment on everybody in the industry in order to pay for one full-time police officer because they do not want to raise the meter.
· Gudu: He presented this issue to a supervisor of hiring someone to do white zone enforcing on limousines and at the airport. He suggested putting this issue on the agenda.
· Mark Gruberg: He welcomed Heidi Machen to the taxi industry. He echoed Gudu and Robert Cesana suggestion that the Taxi Commission should hire someone to investigate white zones. He states that drivers would support this by paying more on their a-cards because this is urgent.
· Peter Witt: He is very disappointed in the fact that requests and announcement have been removed from the agenda permanently. Further reducing extremely valuable public input. Once again Commissioners how many Commissioners does it take to connect the dots and screw in a light bulb? 6 score and 15 Commissioners has yet to produce the lights on the S.F. taxis to operate correctly. Maybe the word light is a clerical error or the words off and one need to be defined. Either way it's a consistent and an unconscionable delectation of duty to the public. Take my 2005 customer survey, to refresh, over 1,000 customers every year for the last 7. 500 the first. I do the pulmonary numbers leaving the rest up to the experts. But I do get a good feeling for what they think. Along with a few pleasant surprises. So far no one on this Commission considers them relevant evidence, but this year Yellow and Luxor will plagiarize my survey.
· Chuffa Tesfaye: He was requesting to be reinstated to the ramp taxi waiting list. He submitted a letter explaining his situation.

· Jim Gillespie, President of S.F.T.A.: Welcomed Heidi Machen to the Commission.
· Peter Shu: He has a problem with limousines and out-of-town cabs. He has called in complaints with no results. He stated that some of his customers have complained about people hustling customers at SFO into limousines.
· Ted Talbot: He is a member of the general public and wanted to share some of his experiences with taxis in this city. He stated that he has been in cabs that have been dirty, nasty and stink. He stated that sometimes the driver stink, they don't pay attention to their driving, they talk on cell phones, they want to eat and they want to smoke. He have almost be hit by a taxi while on the sidewalk
· Kenneth Liang: He is a ramp driver and has been driving a taxi for 11 years. After receiving his ramp permit he purchased a ramped van. After operating his ramped van for 4 years, he requested and received a 5th year to operate his van, but upon the GTU inspection he can no longer operate his van because of the 350,000 mileage cap. He states that his vehicle is well maintained.

7. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION ON TODO MAGAZINE, BY FREE MEDIA GROUP, LLC.

Kiri Henderson and Michael Moskowitz, Free Media Group, LLC: TODO was founded to create a free publication for San Francisco residents.
Edward Dole, After Science Visual Communication: He discussed the device he designed for distributing the magazine.

PUBLIC COMMENT

· Peter Witt: Where does the lion share of this venture, this undertaking or what is the breakdown will be in the future. He suggested the magazine could have taxi stand information, customer feedback, best company to call, best time to call, what to do if a customer wants to complain and or the best way to get a cab at peak times.
· Ruach Graffis: She is interested in the magazine, but suggested a page that informs customers on what a San Francisco cab is and how to identify it. The proper markings, the number of the cabs and that there are limousines in town and that limousine only work with prearrangement.

8. CLOSED SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.

8:10 p.m. Commissioner Breslin motioned to enter into closed session. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: None RECUSED: McGuire

8:40 p.m. returned from closed session. Commissioner Smith motioned to return from closed session and not to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. Commission Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: None RECUSED: McGuire

PUBLIC COMMENT

· Mark Gruberg, U.T.W.: Speaking on behalf of U.T.W. and this is a bad settlement and suggested rejecting the settlement and direct the city to reclaim the permits. He provided background information of corporate permits.
· Barry Taranto: He thanked all the Commissioners for being presented. He stated that Yellow and Luxor Cab Companies returned their corporate permits back to the city. He states that Veterans is not special in this situation. He suggested making a

decision that is fair and legal.
· Austin Peterson: He wanted to encourage the Commission to follow the rules of Proposition K.
· Peter Witt: Any settlement is a bad settlement. I don't expect this Commission to do the right thing. It always shocks me when you do. It shouldn't be that complicated, it should be automatic. Unless you don't understand or know the laws pertaining to corporate medallions. In which case you need to refer to the city attorney office. Maybe drivers should get together and threaten to sue the city for lose wages and suffering and for negotiating in bad faith. How come you don't fine or jail time if they don't comply. And the fact that you commissioners no drivers have no power and are helpless to defend them self against corporate greed and power. Which make your non-action a more hay nest act. Years have gone by already, anymore stalling only confirms what I've stated here tonight. When will justice be delivered to hard working taxi drivers. Or do we have another clerical error in the works that is missing. Or maybe we need to define the words "justice for all".
· Gudu, Comfort Cab: It is unfair to deal with this settlement the way Veterans Cab presented it. He stated that Luxor and Yellow Cab Companies gave their permits up within a three year period.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks
Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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August 23, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance

3/05

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes for the August 9, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

5. Request for advertisements to:
   A. Saam Aryan, Permit #9037 "Discount to Airport = $10. Pre-Arrange the time"
   B. Big Wheel Hubcaps (Bay, S.F. Taxi, KSJ, ABC, Executive, Fog City, B&W Checker, Delta Taxi Companies)

6. Staff Report

7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

8. Adjournment

25 Van Ness Avenue, Room 420, San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 503-2180 * Fax (415) 503-2186 * email: sftaxi.commission@sfgov.org * www.sfgov.org/taxicommission

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
August 23, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Ebrahim Alghazali	Alexei Calin	Kulvir Dhaliwal	Lonnie Fontana
Khalid Gasmelseed	Jas Gurung	Angesom Hagos	Igor Kurashev
Mesfin Mengesha	Malki Mourad	Sami Ouertani	Gabriel Palmer
Ricardo Pinheiro	Rafael Pogosyan	Bishnu Poudyal	Chris Proctor
Rabindra Rai	Gregory Ryan	Amolak Singh	Ralph Spight
Wai Tam	Mohamed Touzari	Quang Truong	Yar Walizada
Dawit Yosef	Hafedh Alawdi	Angel Alicea	Thero Blank
Thomas Carmichael	Calvin Chow	Eshak Desta	Najib Elferrouj
Bishnu Gurung	Michael Johnson	Vitaliy Kazaryan	Bruce Kessinger
Teddy Li	Julian Massa	Carl Remde	Eric Sauret
Hung To	Eduardo Viana	Chek Wu	Ismail Yacoobali
Kyaw Yahtar			

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to grant a time waivers to:
1. Ibrahim Awwad 2. Gary Bellotti 3. Ciro Matarazzo 4. Ronald Reissberg

C. Approval of Final Decision by Acting Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.
1. Approval of Citation for Violations by Bay Cab Company.

D. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Dilbagh Singh Toor	830	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
2. Mike Dashti	1230	DeSoto Cab to Union Cab
3. Alireza Behpour	1016	Bay Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
4. Salvador Rodriquiz	379	Royal Taxi to DeSoto Cab
5. Michael Newell Burns	1141	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
6. Kwan Tat Ming	197	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
7. Allen B. Gelder	300	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
8. Antonio G. Vasquez	53	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
9. Reynaldo Datlag	1048	Bay Cab to Union Cab

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the September 13, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

	Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1.	*David Xe*	*9072*	*Bay Cab to Union Cab*
2.	*Lonnie Joseph Pasquini*	*1300*	*Worldwide Cab to DeSoto Cab*
3.	*Peter DeLappe*	*965*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
4.	*Floro G. Asuncion*	*211*	*B & W Checker Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
5.	*Dennis Wong*	*751*	*Regents Cab to Union Cab*
6.	*Robert Howard Colburn*	*952*	*Luxor Cab to S.F. American Taxi* ***(Request Withdrawn)***
7.	*Essam Al-Kashef*	*985*	*National Cab to S.F. American Taxi*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies o the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

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The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

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Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Adele Destro, Interim Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by e-mail at sotf@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317; web site: sfgov.org/ethics.

WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

August 23, 2005

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
August 23, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith, McGuire

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Heidi Machen, Sonya Banks - Taxi Commission; Lieutenant Jeannie Schlotz, Sergeant Vince Simpson - Taxi Detail

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call: The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the Minutes for the August 9, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

Commissioner Paek motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

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AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: McGuire RECUSED: None

Comm Breslin noted that the reopening of the meeting and the announcement that the meeting for the cab driver/limo discussion at the Hilton was not included in the minutes. She asked if the reason it was not listed was because it shouldn't have been brought up at that point?

City Attorney Tom Owen asked which item she was referring to and said that after closed session, her comments should have been included in the minutes. Comm Breslin indicated that her comments about the meetings that had taken place regarding the limo and taxi drivers at the Hilton were not included. She would like to add in the minutes that the Hilton meeting was conducted.

Ms. Machen asked the secretary to make a note of Ms. Breslin's comments and to correct the minutes as requested.

President Jackson asked that the minutes be approved with that addition. None opposed.

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

4A Pres. Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger Vehicle Permit). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: None

ABSENT: None RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve 4B (Time Waivers to: 1. Ibrahim Awwad; 2. Gary Bellotti; 3. Ciro Matarazzo; 4. Ronald Reissberg. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Paek, Smith NOES: None

ABSENT: None RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT
Peter Witt noted that there is a request to grant a time waiver to four drivers. He does not know anything about the drivers and wondered why they were granted a time waiver. What is the reason for their time waiver request? He also noticed that there are four of them and they are all to be approved at once. He thinks that we should take the requests one at a time and understand what the circumstances are. Going back to Ms. Breslin's comments about the intent or how they follow the law but they have never driven a cab before. The intent of Prop K and what's been going on with Prop K are not similar in respect to the intent. He believes that when somebody puts their name on the list, their intention may be honorable but if somebody else puts their name on the list, when they are underage or don't have a driver's license, have no idea what they are going to be doing in life. Let's say they haven't graduated high school, who knows what somebody is going to do. They go to college and they major in something and they go on. So if somebody else puts their name on the list, there's no intent there from that person to drive a cab. It's set up by somebody else, by the elders, who may think this is a good thing in the future.

Barry Toranto thanked Mr. Witt's comments so he can dovetail on what he said that there was nothing in the Commission packets today that he reviewed that showed any letters from these individuals to why they are requesting the time waiver. The Commission deserves at least a letter of request in the packets. If it's not there and they can't see, then the public should have access to make comments on their request. Person #1, he believes that the Commission should approve the time waiver for obvious reasons.

Exec Director Machen was recognized through the Chair and explained that the time for an explanation of the time waiver went into the packets when the time waiver was originally on notice.

Robert Susanna said that the PDA worked to eliminate people from the list who hadn't complied with the driving requirement. He requested the time waivers be considered individually. He explained the driving requirement and said that the City Attorney had said there was no way for them to comply with the driving requirement if they were so far behind that it wasn't possible for them to comply within the year waiver period. He asked that the Commission suspend the whole issue until further clarification is made. He said they are clearly not legal.

President Jackson ended public comment and solicited questions and comments from the Commission.

Comm Smith said that 2 and 4 have been in the industry for a while and deserve these

waivers. He called Ronald Reisberg forward to answer questions. How long have you been in the business, Ronald?

Mr. Reisberg said that he'd been driving 22 years full time and now wishes to return.

Comm Smith advocated for allowing waivers in cases like these. People got in the industry when there were different expectations.

Comm McGuire asked about his ramp taxi.

Mr. Reisberg said he'd driven for several years, became a teacher and now wishes to return and teach as well as fulfill his driving requirement and support his family and serve the public.

Comm McGuire asked why he'd returned the ramp taxi.

Mr. Reisberg said that to be honest he didn't enjoy driving a ramp taxi because they were always in the shop and you end up waiting two or three hours, especially with the requirement that you have to drive your own medallion.

Comm McGuire asked further clarification of his teaching; Mr. Reisberg again explained that he was a teacher who has summer, winter, spring break and was capable of meeting the driving requirement.

Comm McGuire again asked about the ramp taxi; Mr. Reisberg said that he'd given it up for personal family reasons but that he would be able to meet his driving requirement with a regular medallion.

Comm McGuire said it was unclear whether this was a ramp taxi on number 3. She hadn't seen his name on the waiting list. Could the Exec Director clarify this?

Exec Director Machen asked Inspector Suslow to clarify Ciro Matarazzo's status. Inspector Suslow replied that he was not for a ramp but that you wouldn't find his name on the current list but on a previous list. He had put in a time waiver several years ago but the clerk removed him from the list instead of putting him in for a time waiver. He hadn't driven enough shifts to be removed from the time waiver.

Comm McGuire said she had never seen his name on a list.

Insp Suslow said he could show her a list with his name on it - it would be an old list.

Comm McGuire asked that the Police provide her with that list. She then asked about Mr. Awad; he's ill, right?

Insp Suslow explained that he was involved in an accident while trying to meet the driving requirement. Pres. Jackson added that he was on crutches.

Comm McGuire said that Mr. Bellotti had driven for Veterans for many years. Why didn't he continue driving if he knew he was so close to getting a permit.

Mr. Bellotti said that he managed the maintenance dept, including purchasing for Veterans and when Emory Speck had gotten sick, it wasn't possible for him to continue. Now that he's gotten his final notice to apply for a time waiver, he did so.

Comm McGuire asked whether he was still managing the shop, whether he felt it

would be a problem to meet the driving requirement and whether he had an A-card.

Mr. Bellotti responded that he had his A-card, would still be managing the shop, but would not find it difficult to meet the driving requirement.

Comm McGuire said she'd still like to see number three's status on the list.

Pres Jackson asked whether she thought the officer was lying; Comm McGuire said she would feel better if she could see the name on the list.

Comm Breslin recited the rule for granting a time waiver; the current policy requires granting a time waiver unless some sort of fraud has occurred. She favors growing the industry in this way. If there was an administrative delay beyond someone's control, she would not fault the applicant.

Comm Kwok agreed generally and wanted to emphasize that A-cards should be renewed; he also wanted to know that there was support from Taxi Detail and why the applicant applied for the waiver and whether the waybill was accurate. Other than that, he has no problem.

Comm Gillespie said that he'd known Ciro for many years, had talked with him personally, and would like to motion to approve 1-4.

Pres Jackson interrupted, asking for a faxed copy showing the man on the list.

Insp Suslow said he could do that to all Commissioners with a fax and provided some background information that led to the clerical mistake as well as a miscount from Matarrazo that resulted in his not meeting the driving requirement.

Gillespie reiterated his motion to approve; Kwok seconded.

4C1. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C1 (Approval Citations for Violations by Bay Cab Company). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire , Paek, Smith NOES: Kwok, Gillespie
ABSENT: None RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT
Douglas Le representing Bay Cab Co on these allegations requested a continuance of at least 30 days to respond to the allegations, especially the worker's comp. As far as he knows, the Bay Cab drivers are independent contractors and there is just one mention of worker's comp in the Commissioner's regulations, making companies responsible to comply with California law. He would like time to resolve this.

Comm Kwok clarified that Douglas Le was the lawyer for Bay Cab and would have all the information he needed if granted a 30 day continuance.

Mr. Le said yes.

Comm Kwok asked for clarification that there is no employer-employee relationship between Bay and their drivers.
Mr. Le said courts have interpreted it under scope and control and that it is unclear under the Commissioners rules; I would like some City Attorney clarification.

Comm Smith asked how long these proceedings had been going on.

Mr. Le said he was retained the beginning of August. On further questioning, Mr. Le said since May 2003.

Comm Smith asked how many gate and gas drivers operate out of Bay Cab; Mr. Le said he was unsure but was asking for a continuance to understand the law. The workers comp issue, particularly could have industry-wide impact.

Comm McGuire said this item had been continued several times; Mr. Le responded that this was his first appearance before the Commission.

Exec Dir Machen offered clarification: the matter was heard Dec 2004; she didn't understand what was being requested, whether it was a request for a new hearing. The decision was signed off on by the previous director. City Attorney Owens said that it had only been in this form since June 2005.

Comm Gillespie said this was the first time an attorney had appeared; this was not a subtle issue; he also has questions not addressed in this opinion such as the amount of the fine. This is the third continuance.

Comm Breslin echoed that she was sympathetic to the fact that an attorney was here for the first time, but the time to appeal was before tonight. She would only allow a continuance if the City Attorney gave guidance; does City Attorney Owen have one?

City Attorney Owen said he had no knowledge of the facts of this case. But, gas and gates drivers would be deemed employees for the purpose of worker's comp.

Pres Jackson asked the amount of the fines.

Insp Suslow said the cumulative fines were about $3000; and he wanted to know whether there were any other charges that counsel had questions about.

Mr. Le said mainly it was the worker's comp. There are cases. . . .

Comm Breslin asked again about the date of the hearing, Dec. 12, 2004. There was a period when nothing happened. Could Insp Suslow clarify?

Insp Suslow explained that none of the times recommended would start running until final adoption. Counsel was raising issue only with worker's comp; the department would be willing to drop that charge if need be.

Comm Breslin asked whether severance was possible.

City Attorney Owen said they would have to set the item for hearing at next meeting; at that point the Commission could drop the finding and Bay Cab might be willing to stipulate to that result.

Comm Breslin said she's always said the commission holds a higher standard than what would convict someone to go to jail; for instance, with workers comp.

Comm Smith said that all the gates and gas drivers are required to have workers comp because you're exercising control over those drivers. They can appeal this if they like, but, we should go ahead.

Comm Smith motioned to approve the Acting Director recommendation; Comm Breslin seconded the motion; Comm Jackson asked whether they wanted a roll call; Exec

Director Machen recalled the motion and offered to take a roll call vote.

Comm Gillespie wanted a hearing at the next meeting and would vote against it tonight; he wants more due process since there is uncertainty about workers comp and this is the first time an attorney has appeared.

Exec Dir Machen announced the vote passed by 5-2 by a roll call vote.

4D. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:
Medallion Holder Cab # Change
1. Dilbagh Singh Toor 830 Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
2. Mike Dashti 1230 DeSoto Cab to Union Cab
3. Alireza Behpour 1016 Bay Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
4. Salvador Rodriquiz 379 Royal Taxi to DeSoto Cab
5. Michael Newell Burns 1141 Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
6. Kwan Tat Ming 197 Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
7. Allen B. Gelder 300 Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
8. Antonio G. Vasquez 53 Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
9. Reynaldo Datlag 1048 Bay Cab to Union Cab

Comm Smith motioned for approval of items 1,3, and 8; Comm Kwok seconded.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire , Paek, Smith, Kwok NOES: None
ABSENT: None RECUSED: Gillespie

Comm Smith motioned to approve 4, 5, 6, 7 pending verification of workers compensation for number 4. Comm Paek seconded.
AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire , Paek, Smith, Kwok, Gillespie NOES: None
ABSENT: None RECUSED: None

Comm Breslin asked whether there was a motion to approve 4, 5, 6, 7 pending verification of workers compensation for number 4. Smith so motioned, Paek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Comm Breslin asked whether there was a motion to approve 4, 5, 6, 7 pending verification of workers compensation for number 4. Smith so motioned, Paek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Witt introduced himself, saying he was endorsed by over 1000 cab drivers to represent them and has performed customer service surveys. He likes the name Union Cab and noted transfer from Veterans to Arrow and wondered about Veterans Cab. Quoting Police Comm Petrillo from 1997, he said they routinely rubber stamped these transfers. Under Prop K legislation, any and all company assets that transfer with 10% excess should be revoked. Doing nothing is easy, as reflected in tonight's agenda since there is nothing on the agenda.

Barry Toranto said some had left the reason for transfer blank. Reason can be anything, but it's an important part of the application and should not be left blank. To go on to the issue of workers compensation, he looked at the forms submitted and he is concerned that the Commission get enough proof. Some companies are paying thousands and thousands of dollars to pay for workers compensation and some companies may be getting away with not reporting enough payroll based on number of vehicles. You have two types of policies - individual owner-operator one where they

pay for the compensation themselves and then you have the companies with these blanket policies that they've had in place for years. Form turned in dated in February only covered two cabs.

Exec Director Machen recommended continuance of two of the transfers until final confirmation of worker's comp, both wishing to transfer to Union Cab.

Victor from Union cab said that he had faxed in monthly workers comp payments and brought copies of checks; he asked for no continuance.

Exec Dir Machen clarified that Victor was asking that the matter not be continued. His packet was submitted to all director; however, the Taxicab Commission was unable to verify payment - it may be a clerical error that the policy hasn't been entered in the computer. It is up to the will of the Commission.

Comm McGuire said she was troubled by the documents that Victor had provided since it was from February; she wanted to know why it wasn't more up to date. We need some standardized form for workers comp verification.

Victor said they pay more per month for every taxicab.

Comm McGuire said it was unfair to ask the Commissioners to review this on the spot; they need time to review the information in advance.

Comm Gillespie asked to recuse himself on 1,3, and 8 on this section.

Comm McGuire said we're severing and asking for continuance on these two? She also asked about the Desoto certificate.

Sal from Desoto said that's what he'd been asked for. Comm McGuire said it was the wrong form - it was a certificate of liability. Why is no one from Desoto here?

Sal said he is from Desoto now.

Comm McGuire said she needs verification. Sal offered it in the morning.

Jim Gillespie said that this had happened several times before, but certain companies like Luxor, Yellow, Desoto, have turned in documentation and been assured in the past that they would not be questioned further on this. It seems redundant if certification is on permanent file with the Commission office.

Comm McGuire said she wasn't aware of this.

Comm Smith said there are long term leases and gates and gas and Mr. Gillespie was right about certain companies, but it was difficult to distinguish who was who. He also asked for a legible copy of the certification.

5. Request for advertisements to:
A. Saam Aryan, Permit #9037 "Discount to Airport = $10. Pre-Arrange the time"
B. Big Wheel Hubcaps (Bay, S.F. Taxi, KSJ, ABC, Executive, Fog City, B&W Checker, Delta Taxi Companies)

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Jackson asked whether the Commission was taking both items together or

separately.

Exec Dir Machen said the Commission could ask for them to be called separately.

Pres Jackson asked that item B be called first.

Carl McMurdo with the Permit Holder Group. Bay Cab asked for their support; he is not a big fan of advertising, but this fits on the wheels and smaller companies need revenue. The only issue is that you need a special key in case of a flat.

Peter Witt noted that this was not an action item and he wondered how it could appear in place of announcements. Could he get a copy of the rule book? Item number five contains two requests by two entities. What strings do I need to pull to remove the Commissioners blinders?

Roger Cardenas with Bay Cab said some Commissioners had expressed concern on the safety of the wheels and he submitted additional information for Commissioners.

Robert Sussanna said you had to start by saying that anything any cab driver could do to get passengers into their cab at any rate was an important consideration. The real question: we do allow solicitation. I have been given cards about this very issue.

Thomas George Williams, speaking just as a driver doesn't see why anyone couldn't advertise for their services. As a driver, it should be allowed.

Saam Aryan said that there are three cab drivers working as doormen and janitors at Hilton. All the drivers are leaving. We must have some power in our hands. Everyone benefits.

Mark Gruberg spoke for himself on the issue; sympathizes with Saam but doesn't think it's a good idea. He can foresee a slippery slope of approvals for signage that could lead to an awful lot of public confusion where people go cab shopping and negotiating with drivers. Also, there is a question of fairness since some companies might not want signs on their cabs. Public advertising is the wrong way to go. Also, under Prop K, it is possible to apply for a lower rate, but there is a process for doing so. Flat rate to the airport would be a good idea.

Comm Smith asked what about a sign that says ask driver for discount?

Mr. Gruberg said he's not too fond of the coupon idea. If there is a lower rate, it should be for everyone.

Comm Kwok asked whether this was an individual cab owner-operator.

Mr. Gruberg confirmed and said it was a problem.

Peter Witt reminded the Commission that drivers were coming up with these ideas because they were desperate and he applauds the entrepreneurial efforts. Flat rate to the airport is an idea, but it messes with the market.

Jim Gillespie, Luxor Cab and SF Taxi Association, spoke on the item at the behest of several drivers curious about lower rate to the airport being considered. These drivers were concerned about such a policy because it puts pressure on other drivers to lower their rates. Lastly, he found it interesting that ramp vans can go to the airport and that a ramp driver wanted to promote service to the airport.

John Nockus said this is ridiculous. Drivers can offer discounts privately; it is easy. We don't need this - it's not a way to compete with limos; you are competing with other drivers.

Pres Jackson reminded the Commission that this was not an action item and requested further discussion.

Comm McGuire said she had questions of Mr. Aryan. She thought his sign was misleading; easy to misinterpret. Also she questioned why he wants more rides to the airport.

Mr. Aryan explained that the sign was upside down.

Comm McGuire expressed concern that this was a ramp taxi. Also, if the Commission allows this one to advertise, would each and every person who wants to advertise have to come before the Commission? She would like him to be soliciting business from the disabled community for his ramp van. It makes no sense to her to offer a $10 discount. And, she requested whether others would be able to advertise based on the Commission's decision.

City Attorney Tom Owen said that if the item was up for approval, the Commissioners could individually or collectively approve the advertising.

Comm Gillespie said it was inappropriate for a ramp van to be advertising this way.

Exec Dir Machen added, through the Chair, that she had included the Rules and Regulations specific rule that authorized the Commission to approve advertising in the Commissioner's packet.

Comm Kwok said he was concerned about approval. He would like to see every advertisement before approved, not have blanket approval. Also, no standard for vehicles. He'd like to see vehicles standardized.

Comm Breslin commented that she'd like to see it contribute to the Wrap Fund. The City Attorney is shaking his head no, this will not contribute.

Pres Jackson said he would vote for the Big Wheels after the Commission has approved lipstick, clown noses, wigs and hats for all the cars. Next item.

6. Staff Report

Exec Director Machen reported that she has two new staff members joining the Commission in September; and she is sure the Exec Secretary is happy to have the help and she hopes more staff will enable the Commission to add value to the public it serves.

On August 11, I attended the Interdepartmental Safety Committee on Traffic. Upcoming Street closures of particular note:
On the weekend of September 2, San Francisco is host to the Grand Prix Bike race. The race itself happens on September 4, making a circuit of the Northeast section of the City, including the Marina, Pacific Heights, Northbeach, Chinatown and the Embarcadero.

Also, on October 3 through October 9 - still a month away - the World Golf Championship will be at San Francisco's Harding Park, resulting in street closures in

the southwest quadrant of the City, including the John Muir Drive area. The organizers expect 20,000 visitors a day. They are working with DPT and our office to develop a plan for taxi queuing - and whether taxi stands may be needed.

Ideally, our office will be able to provide advance notice to taxicab dispatcher services on these events.

On August 17, I attended the Debit Card Program meeting at the Paratransit Broker's Office, along with representatives from Muni. Commissioner Smith attended that meeting, also.

This Friday, August 26, the Airport has called a meeting at 1:30 pm to discuss a proposal offering incentives for clean air taxicabs powered by alternative fuels, chiefly CNG. This meeting will be held at Terminal 1, Conference Room A. Commissioners and interested parties are invited.

Comm Smith items has asked to calendar the following items:
Use of Taxi Commission inspectors to enforce taxi rules and regulations - also to enforce limo's and white zones.
Change the name of the Taxi Commission to Taxi and Limo Commission.
Request action on Municipal Police code 1090's rewrite.
Request to calendar discussion and possible action eliminating the essential eligibility requirement.
Request for a written legal opinion on Municipal Police Code 1121.

Next, a number of Commissioners, including Comm Gillespie asked that we calendar an informational hearing with possible action on the Paratransit Debit Card program for September 13, including a presentation on its progress from Municipal Railway.

That concludes the staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Barry Taranto thanked Dir Machen for mentioning the events and pointed out that the Grand Prix will block off major routes and wants notices to be given in advance time for the day drivers; it doesn't affect the night drivers. Second, regarding the golf event, this is major. Lots of important people will be in town; it's important to get further information about how taxis will be used; need good information about egress and exits without problem. The hearing on the 13th for Debit Card will be very important; it's controversial and no one is profiting. This is to the advantage of the disabled community. None of the other commissioners introduced items for introduction. I'll talk more on that later.

Peter Witt said he was happy to hear about adding value to the industry, cab drivers he hopes. The attention should be focused on adding value. Dispatch should inform drivers of location and breaking of events. He disagrees with more enforcement, however. The stick on cab drivers creates a raw spot.

Carl McMurdo said his comments applied to retroactive application of the Daly/Ma driving requirements. It's better to analyze the issue now and have an opinion. In the event it can't be applied retroactively, redefining time waiver policy instead will create an effective mechanism for ensuring only bona fides.

7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

Robert Sezano, PDA, Yellow Cab, regrets he will not be there for the next meeting. But wanted to remind Commissioners that we have been fighting Muni for years on the

issue that everybody has got to accept scrip but there is no requirement that Muni reimburse anyone. A lot of drivers don't get reimbursed so they avoid picking up seniors. Next, it is wonderful that we have this item to employ limo inspectors. Two interesting things happen: request for more advertising and for ways to drum up business. Regarding a higher meter rate, most drivers don't want increase, they just want more passengers in their cabs.

Barry Taronto likes to uphold the law regarding public meetings and expressed concern that barring announcements goes against open meeting laws. Other Commissions, such as Police and Entertainment Commission include Commissioner Comments and Announcements or Commissioners Requesting Items to be Placed on Calendar. It's deplorable that you have to submit these items in advance to the Exec Director. You agreed to discuss this, yet nothing has been set up.

Next issue, a driver was told he had to pay the doorman $8 or not pick up from his hotel. It's wrong. Also, still seeing illegal cabs on the street, particularly the VIP cabs.

Thomas George Williams talking for UTW. The Bulletin got attacked last time, called inflammatory and incorrect. Our bulletins are always correct - they may not be complete, but they are correct. They are not bipartisan but always on the side of the working driver. The Hilton is trying to make changes. It is all good. We have a survey, the Dirty Dozen, but I don't tell you now who is leading. Next time. Totally different issue: we raised the meter two years ago to the public. The gates were also raised; companies required to provide yearly financial reports and give workers comp and the City was supposed to require health care. As far as I know, no company has provided financial reports for two years. This is white collar crime. These people should be in jail.

Ms. Cavollo, a ramp taxi consumer reminded everyone that it's important to maintain the ramp taxi program and meet the on-time standards. She was recently criticized by a Luxor Cab driver for being a firecracker; she wasn't sure how to take it. The driver said she was a good influence but he encouraged her to call other cab companies.

Comm Smith asked whether she had made a complaint about the harassment.

Ms. Cavollo replied that it wasn't harassment. Everyone needs to make a living; there's a difference between humanity and service.

John Nockus said just to follow on the ramp taxis: one thing he'd noticed at the airport is that there are a number of ramps stationed at the airport 24/7. There are so many of them out there that I don't think any of them serve the City. Surcharge for gas prices is devastating for the City. It's amazing because we are higher in SF than anywhere yet no surcharge provided for drivers. It's amazing. Make it a part of your agenda. Help these guys who spend so much on a daily basis.

Peter Witt displayed a sign that he stole off the front window of a limo parked at Hyde and Jefferson; he asked the Commissioners to return the sign to the limo driver. I met the sweetest little old lady and I asked if she wanted to complain. She had two knee operations and had been cut twice in the cheek by a Yellow Cab driver, but she is a fan and says 90% of the drivers are helpful. When was the last time I saw Heidi, our new Executive Director. I found this 1997 article. According to Heidi, then Assistant to Supervisor Newsom, she suggested making some changes to make the industry more efficient before considering adding more taxis.

Tesafeya Chufa said he knows all the Commissioners and they know his case. When do I get due process in front of this Commission? My case is probably strangled by you. I have not been given a chance. Whatever resolution should be given to me - you never told me; why this mental reservation? You are good people, but when it comes to my case, you have reservations.

Mark Gruberg wanted to follow up on comments of Thomas George Williams on failure of taxi companies to file financial disclosures. When taxi companies pushing for meter and gate increases previously, we asked what their statements said, not that we're entitled to see them. These statements are required, but there has been no enforcement. They are not supposed to be entitled to the higher gate if not in compliance. Drivers are being bilked in gate overcharges amounting to millions of dollars during the time they haven't filed. This isn't just a formal requirement. The health care plan for drivers is being delayed, also. I understand a letter has gone out and there is a requirement that the past two years reports be filed by Sept. 7. Glad to see that. Concerned about the actual requirements that seem diluted from previous requirements.

Unidentified member of the public said he'd done a lot of analytical work and when he applies it at the Commission, he sees one word: control. There are some groups that seem control being removed and they will suffer. Example is this limo and hotel situation. The other issue is control of disability wheelchair cabs which is spread among cab companies that oppose a universal dispatch for these.

Spanky Woods said he'd been driving since 1991. When he drove in 1991, Mr. Chuffa was also a cab driver and became a friend; he is an honorable man. If there is anything you can do to help him get his medallion, I would like to see it done. The gas prices - my gas bill was $37.75 for about 120 miles today. Most of my information comes from NPR. Well before Halloween, gas will be well above $3 a gallon. When we look at European gas prices at $7 gallon or more, we've been very lucky; gas prices will never go back down. Hybrids and clean air vehicles will become the norm. Meter will have to go up; I always see a gate increase soon after the meter - this should not happen. Does the Commission have a plan where there will be an increase?

8. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission

September 13, 2005

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes for the August 23, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

5. Muni Paratransit Debit Card Program [INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]

6. Staff Report

7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

8. CLOSED SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
a. Public comment on all matters pertaining to the closed session.
b. Vote on whether to hold closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding threatened litigation relating to Veterans Taxicab Co. (SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d).) [ACTION]
c. Conference with legal counsel in closed session. (CA Government Code §§ 54956.9 (b)(1); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d)(2).) One possible case as defendant.
d. Reconvene in open session:
1. Possible report on action taken in closed session and the vote thereon. (CA Government Code § 54957.1(a)(3); SF Administrative Code § 67.12(b).) [ACTION]
2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. (SF Administrative Code § 67.12(a).) [ACTION]

9. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
September 13, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Omar Abdu	Adel Abdulla	Anis Abidi	Amer Al Shemari
Atif Ali	Kadhim Altuwarish	Edvin Amzayan	Vadim Azarov
Artem Bagdasarov	Hassan Banoun	Gaston Barra	Rony Barrios
Aakash Bhandari	Yakov Bronshteyn	Rubens DeMelo	Helio DeMorais, Jr
Regiane DeSouza	Bikram Diyali	Heder DosSantos	Aissa ElAllali
Todd Feinstein	Stephen Flinn	Rafael Flores, Jr.	Paulo Garrote
Mehran Golchehreh	Jesus Gonzalez	Salah Hassan	Jose Herrera
Chio leong	Gerardo Intertas, Jr.	Musa Jaradie	Zelalem Jima
Andrea Johnson	Tyrone Jones	Richard Jovel	Stephen Kadis
Abdallah Kharufeh	Leonid Khlevinsky	Kenneth Lawrence	Eugene Lemelle
John Lim	Gustavo Lopez	Shamsher Loyal	Kyaw Lwin
Luis Maciel	Ian MacTaggart	Vagif Mamedov	Nicholas Martinez
Willie Mason	Daniela Minussi	Mosed Mohamed	Naqeebullah Mushtari
Yemane Naizghi	Brahim Nezhi	Srinivas Nukala	Andreas Pielhoop
Steven Polta	Khan Qayum	Lokesh Ramaswamy	Daniel Ribas
Jose Ribeiro	Osvaldo Rivera	Diolino Rodrigues	Michael Ruiz
Aitu Sailele	Humayoon Sayed	Sebghatullah Sayed	Richard shields
William Siewert	Malkiat Singh	Ajaybir Singh	Satnam Singh
Inderjeet Singh	Yuthana Sitiprawet	Ashin Sudara	Arnaldo Teodoro
Joseph Thomas	Mohamed Touati	Ricky Tran	Hao Tu
Henry Ung	Thai Van Pham	Altie Watson	Musie Weldemlak
Wei Yang Mei	Mohamed Zinabidine		

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Mike Dashti	1230	DeSoto Cab to Union Cab
2. Reynaldo Datlag	1048	Bay Cab to Union Cab
3. David Xe	9072	Bay Cab to Sunset Cab
4. Lonnie Joseph Pasquini	1300	Worldwide Cab to DeSoto Cab
5. Peter DeLappe	965	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
6. Floro G. Asuncion	211	B & W Checker Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
7. Dennis Wong	751	Regents Cab to Union Cab
8. Essam Al-Kashef	985	National Cab to S.F. American Taxi

C. Final Decision by Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Revocation of the Driver Public Vehicle for Hire Permit held by Mr. Daoud Obaid

D. Discussion and Possible Approval of Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme to be effective September 26, 2005 - November 26, 2005. Applicant is Luxor Cab Company Medallion Nos. 123, 934, 269, 966, 916. Advertiser is Oakville Grocers.

E. Discussion and Possible Approval of Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme to be effective October 1, 2005 - November 31, 2005. Applicant is Luxor Cab Company Medallion Nos. 974, 2192, 2199, 2222, 1148, 2193, 2210, 1263. Advertiser is DHL.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

A. The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the September 27, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME: COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Juan Honorio	1295	Luxor Cab to Union Cab
2. Chuck Bun Tong	787	Regents Cab to DeSoto Cab **(Request Withdrawn)**
3. Darren L. Harris	1255	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
4. Bhan S. Sandhu	1158	Fog City Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
5. Mohammed Elsayed	672	DeSoto Cab to Crown Cab
6. Francis Wilson	802	Worldwide Cab to Metro Cab
7. Peter D. Kleinman	921	National Cab to Metro Cab
8. Kurt Alan Schumacher	1292	Metro Cab to DeSoto Cab
9. Alex Hassan Mofrad	1239	United Cab to Crown Cab
10. Ahmad Mahmoud Albowyha	9010	Yellow Cab to DeSoto Cab

B. The San Francisco Super Cab has requested a change of taxicab color from purple and white to yellow and white.

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item

you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities may call Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180 to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Adele Destro, Interim Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by e-mail at sotf@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317; web site: sfgov.org/ethics.

WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. (San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)

Taxicab Commission

September 13, 2005

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
September 13, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Heidi Machen, T. Bettencourt, Vicky Siu - Taxi Commission; Inspector Farrell Suslow, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Lieutenant Jeannie Scholtz - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE August 23, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

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Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. Motion passes 4 to 2.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Smith, Breslin NOES: Kwok, McGuire
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Peter Witt of Yellow Cab Co.-17 yrs., native San Franciscan: Didn't see minutes from August 23, 2005 meeting.
• Heidi Machen, Executive Director: Apologized for not having minutes available on the public table
• Mr. Witt: On public comment #7, believes he was purposely interrupted by Ms. Breslin to distract his train of thought. This is not mentioned in the minutes and would like to say he misspoke when he said he'd file complaint with Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, meant to say he's thinking of filing with the Ethics Commission- has yet to go there.
• Barry Taranto: Also mentioned that copies of minutes were not available to public for review and asking to withhold approval of minutes until they can look at a copy. He did get to see a copy at the commission office and noticed his name was spelled wrong. Regarding the comments Commissioner Breslin made at the end of the closed

session which was not part of the agenda and the city attorney said you can include them in minutes, this was commissioner comments made in the closed session. We were not invited to be at that closed session to hear commissioner comments, therefore, asking to strike comments from minutes or he will go to Ethics Commission because this is a violation of Brown Act.
• Exec. Director Machen: Asked member of staff to make copies of minutes from August 23, 2005 and if commission would like to table this item for vote later, this could be an option.
• Mark Gruberg: A month ago, when working on United Taxicab Newsletter, he went over previous minutes and found a few months before, a number of comments were attributed to him that were spoken by another person and he did not subscribe to those comments.
• Pres Jackson: Are you referring to the minutes of our last meeting?
• Mr. Gruberg: No, these are from previous minutes from several months ago and would like to see that corrected. He will make sure to review minutes in future to be sure he's properly identified. Asking to postpone approval of minutes since there aren't any available to the public for review. Concerned about the mentioning of an item that was not on the agenda as Barry mentioned earlier. Feels that comment should not be part of meeting or agenda.
• Pres Jackson: We want the minutes to be as accurate as possible. In regards to previous/past minutes, our director will introduce two new staff members. During that time that you were talking about, we had two people working where we should have five. We apologize for the oversight/inconvenience. We will be at full staff fairly soon and assured that things will be done correctly.
• Comm. Breslin: In regards to the comments included in the minutes, she was under impression meeting was not closed and was told could make announcements at end of meeting, however incorrect they were at the moment. City attorney, should they be included in the minutes so public knows that something was said whether or not it was on the agenda?
• City Attorney Owen: That's a determination for the commission.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Kwok motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger Vehicle). Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Smith, McGuire NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Change) items 5 & 6. Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-1.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, Smith NOES: McGuire
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: Gillespie

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Change) items 1-4, 7 & 8. Commissioner Kwok seconded.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: None

• Comm. Smith: Had question on worker's comp. certificate for American Airporter Shuttle, naming Intellitron as second insured, it should be Taxi Commission.
• Comm. McGuire: Regarding shuttle being the employer, our staff checked that out with worker's comp people. The policy covers everybody.
• Comm. Breslin: Commissioner Gillespie has recused himself on items 5 & 6.
• Comm. Smith: DeSoto has Paul Batmale as secondary insured, this should read Taxi

Commission.
• Comm. McGuire: Once we're at full staff, we can have uniformed documentation. We're heading in that direction-seems organized finally.
• Comm. Smith: Motioned to approve items 5 & 6 on consent calendar B.
• Comm. Kwok: Second.

Approved Color Scheme Changes:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Mike Dashti	1230	DeSoto Cab to Union Cab
2. Reynaldo Datlag	1048	Bay Cab to Union Cab
3. David Xe	9072	Bay Cab to Sunset Cab
4. Lonnie Joseph Pasquini	1300	Worldwide Cab to DeSoto Cab
5. Peter DeLappe	965	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
6. Floro G. Asuncion	211	B & W Checker Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
7. Dennis Wong	751	Regents Cab to Union Cab
8. Essam Al-Kashef	985	National Cab to S.F. American Taxi

4C Commissioner Gillespie motioned to rehear 4C (Revocation of Driver Public Vehicle for Hire Permit held by Mr. Daoud Obaid). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Bill Hancock, Flag-A-Cab Taxi Training School: Mr. Obaid was a student of mine and I'm surprised at what's happening and will vouch for his character. He deserves another chance at getting his license and operating again.
• Sgt. Simpson: Gave brief summary of incident. If the commission wished to look at alternatives, hearing officer asked if they could attach the completion of anger management course and put on 2 yr. probation if he was to be reinstated.
• Comm. Smith: Didn't Mr. Obaid agree to a condition?
• Sgt. Simpson: With the hearing officer, he initially was going to agree to an anger mgmt. course but didn't want to agree to 2 yr. probation.
• Comm. Gillespie: What was progress report? Was restitution paid to other cab driver?
• Sgt. Simpson: I think it was paid to the courts. It was reduced to misdemeanor which qualified him to a diversion program. If completed, the criminal charges would be dismissed which occurred March 2005.
• Comm. McGuire: Is he still driving now?
• Sgt. Simpson: He's been suspended since April 2004. Hearing was Oct. 1, 2004. Findings came out March 2005. There was continuance b/c he didn't complete diversion program.
• Comm. McGuire: These cases are taking too long to come here. How long has he been driving a cab?
• Sgt Simpson: Initially granted driver's permit April 2003. Had no complaints, just administrative citation for speeding in airport, no prior complaints during that year.
• Comm. Kwok: Reiterated there were no other major complaints.
• Sgt Simpson: Correct, he does not have a criminal history. Felt completion of anger mgmt. course and probationary period to ensure public that the behavior was dealt with and public safety was not a threat.
• Comm. Gillespie: Guesses that Mr. Obaid feels remorse and guesses he won't be touching another cab driver ever in his career as cab driver. It's been a year and a half suspension - pretty serious suspension. I think the 2 yr. probation and anger

mgmt course is a doable thing and reasonable.
• Comm. Smith: Feels he needs to serve 2 yrs. probation.
• Comm. Gillespie: Confirmed that's what he said, 2 yr. probation and anger mgmt course.
• Comm. Smith: Maybe 6 more mths. suspension let him think about it, too much anger in these streets.
• Comm. Gillespie: Motions that suspension be lifted and he be required to complete anger mgmt course approved by Taxi Commission staff and serve 2 yr probation period.
• City Attorney Owen: Under procedures, only action would be to vote to rehear this item in a separate meeting to decide to change results/punishment and if commission should vote to rehear it, the permit holder would come fwd and agree to a modified sanction. It could be handled on consent calendar w/out a full hearing on facts if facts themselves aren't disputed.
• Comm. Gillespie: Motions to rehear this case
• Comm. Kwok: Seconded.
• Comm. Breslin: Highly values Taxi Detail recommendation. Thinks Mr. Obaid should remain suspended until he successfully completes anger mgmt course. Was that done?
• Mr. Obaid: Did not complete it b/c it wasn't required.
• Comm. Breslin: Have you enrolled in anger mgmt course yet?
• Mr. Obaid: No
• Comm. Obaid: Are you intending to?
• Mr. Obaid: No...can I ask my friend to translate?
• Comm. Breslin: Let me rephrase question: would you be willing to enroll in anger mgmt course?
• Mr. Obaid: Yes.
• Pres Jackson: City Attorney Owen, to rehear the case, means we're going to change ruling?
• City Attorney Owen: You'd rehear the case and have the option of either overturning basic finding that he engaged in this conduct or simply change what you think is the appropriate punishment.
• Pres Jackson: Until we rehear it, does suspension remain in force?
• City Attorney Owen: Yes.
• Pres Jackson: Reiterated that there was a motion and second to rehear. All in favor, motion passes to rehear this case.

4D Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4D (Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme-Oakville Grocer). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-1.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith NOES: Gillespie
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: None

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4E (Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme-DHL). Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-1.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Kwok, McGuire, Smith NOES: Gillespie
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Dia Lasisi, represents London Fleet: Here seeking approval for item D & E for wrap London Taxi's - Luxor cabs. Here to answer any questions you have.
• Comm. Breslin: I love that Oakville grocery is local and 2nd one makes me feel that it's a good educational message for the public.
• Comm. McGuire: Likes Oakville grocer one. Concerned if we will recognize that it's a Luxor cab w/DHL wrap b/c its yellow.

• Ms. Lasisi: Yes, it does look yellow but it's more orange and will have Luxor lettering on the London taxi and on windows there will be another sign indicating it's a Luxor cab. It looks exactly like DHL trucks.
• Comm. Kwok: Wanted clarification of color, pink or red lettering for DHL wrap?
• Ms. Lasisi: Its red. It will have the DHL traditional colors.
• City Attorney Owen: Asking if Comm. Breslin should call item E since discussion is going there. Or you can call them both.
• Comm. Breslin: Called D & E. Public testimony for both items D & E.
• Comm. Kwok: Only concern is with people confusing Luxor cab with the DHL wrap looking yellow.
• Barry Taranto: Only 974, 1148 & 1263 are medallions. Others are spare cabs and its listed wrong. Spares are for taking place of regular cab, thinks there's a problem for wrap to be effective for client cause spare won't be out all the time.
• Heidi Machen, Exec. Director: It's my understanding that the medallions on D are spares. However, it's Luxor Cab Co., which is a large company, and they could have spares on streets a lot. Comes down to advertiser being happy w/it being on a spare taxi and otherwise up to the commission.
• Ms. Lasisi: Advertisers are not concerned with this.
• Comm. Gillespie: Thinks it's a beautiful design, opposes on principle.

5 Commissioner Breslin motioned to support MUNI's effort to install a mandatory widespread debit card program in San Francisco taxicabs and encourage their efforts to address the concerns of all involved San Francisco cab companies. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Heidi Machen, Exec. Director: Gave brief summary of the MUNI Paratransit Program and Debit Card Program, including the requirement that all taxi companies participate in the program.
• Pres. Jackson: Restate the law that requires paratransit?
• Ms. Machen, Exec. Director: Recapped Police Code 1147.8.
• Pres. Jackson: So it's illegal not to provide this service?
• Ms. Machen, Exec. Director: That is correct.
• Annette Williams, Mgr. of Accessible Services Program for MUNI: Here with Roger Nguyen, he is project manager for the Debit Card Program. Gave summary of the program - have a pilot program going with Yellow Cab. All taxicab co. are required by ordinance to participate in the paratransit and debit card program. Scrip is not liked by both customers and taxi drivers, is costly to mail out and there is more potential for fraud. Debit card program would eliminate many of this. They received 3 proposals and selected GPS who subcontracted to DDS. GPS spent 1 yr. meeting bonding requirement-DDS helped them provide this bonding. There was a complaint filed by the taxi companies saying that the former GPS project manager told them they would be able to choose the hardware for their vehicles. This was never part of the contract, presentation or negotiations to have multiple hardware providers. Contract is set up so that any hardware that could provide this hardware could be part of this system. So if a taxi company wants to purchase their own hardware, at their own cost, we could get the data from them through open architecture. Have met with taxi companies to listen to their concerns and explained procurement process and contract terms. Most concerns relate to computerizes dispatching which is not part of paratransit/debit card program. MUNI is providing hardware for debit card system at no cost to cab companies and providing 4 yr. warranty. After 4 yrs., there will be an estimated maintenance cost of $3-$5/cab/mth. They plan to certify the contract and issue notice to GPS and implement successful program.

• Pres. Jackson: Clarified that there were 3 companies bidding for the contract, this was open process and people who got it, got it fair and square. Wondering why they waited 1 yr. for performance bond.
• Roger Nguyen for MUNI: We waited b/c we felt GPS Data Solutions provided a product that met our requirements and were within the budget. Of the 3 proposals, GPS was right in the middle. One was much less but they didn't meet requirement. 3rd proposal was very high in cost.
• Pres. Jackson: So you gave them the extended length of time to get the bond b/c they met the requirements and had the right costs?
• Mr. Nguyen: Yes.
• Pres. Jackson: Asking if GPS is still at the top of the technology curve since it's taken so long to get the bond or are there other companies that could be more advanced?
• Mr. Nguyen: Other contractor submitted wireless communications solution but they were extremely high. Wanted to provide solution that was affordable to cab companies.
• Pres. Jackson: You said you want to certify the contract, is the contract already signed/certified?
• Ms. Williams: Yes, signed by all parties.
• Pres. Jackson: Confirmed that if a cab company bought a different hardware, they could but MUNI won't pay for it.
• Ms. Williams: Correct
• Pres. Jackson: But he has other choices?
• Ms. Williams: Correct
• Pres. Jackson: Still feels frustrated that its taken so long. Opened to public testimony.
• Cheryl Damiko, Paratransit Consumer: Paratransit community has been waiting a long time for this and she hopes it'll get approved.
• Griff Humphrey, Paratransit Consumer: He's been waiting a long time for this program and wants this to be considered.
• Barry Taranto: Agrees with the program and wants to eliminate fraud also but sees a problem. Speaking as a journalist, not as a taxi driver, feels there are discrepancies and possible financial shenanigans with money being transferred between the main contractor and subcontractor. He's worried that the main contractor is indirectly or directly connected to one cab company which creates a lot of questions among other cab companies.
• Hal Billegart, Yellow Cab Co.: He wants this debit card program to be approved also but has spent a lot of money and felt MUNI is not accommodating what they promised. Thought they would pay for any hardware but that is not the case and feels this is not valid anymore. This isn't what they were promised.
• Comm. McGuire: Asked what hardware they're using.
• Mr. Billegart: Said they're using a card swipe system.
• Comm. McGuire: Clarified that DDS is offering card swipe system also.
• Comm. Smith: Reiterated that DDS offers 4 yrs. warranty and you're allowed to get new hardware at your own cost.
• Mr. Billegart: Yes, if we have the money.
• Peter Witt: Wants to know how to get an item on the agenda-this is not an agenda item. There are conflicts between service of MUNI and taxis b/c they are in clear competition.
• Dan Hinds, National Cab Co.: When this project was originally bid, cab companies were assured of the competitive vendor approach. DDS received a lot of support from the taxi companies and feels this is why they received the contract b/c they weren't the lowest bidder. Explained why the competitive vendor approach was a good way to choose a company. National is testing a credit/debit card unit which should fulfill the goals of this project is far less expensive and more efficiently than the proposed solution. It also provides credit card capabilities.
• Pres. Jackson: Why do you feel they have done this?
• Mr. Hinds: GPS got rid of all the support staff and couldn't come up w/the bond

money and turned to DDS which is providing both of these and taking over project.
• Pres. Jackson: Cab companies are allowed to get different hardware but it just won't be covered under the federal funds but you can have it if you want. No one is stopping anybody from doing what they want.
• Mr. Hinds: Defined what competitive vendor is and mentioned that access to federal funding is the key to this project.
• Pres. Jackson: Do you have that in writing?
• Mr. Hinds: I have the statement of the Deputy Project Mgr. who was hired specifically to get support of the cab companies. He stated that the competitive approach was offered and that's how he got the support.
• Cindy Ward, General Mgr. of DeSoto Cab Company: Speaking for DeSoto and for companies that signed a complaint to MUNI: City wide Dispatch, Bid Dog, National Cab Company, Veterans/Arrow Cab, Royal Taxi, Executive Taxi, Yellow Cab Co-op, Town Taxi, San Francisco Taxi, Bay Taxi, ABC Taxi, JSK Cab, Fog City Taxi, Delta Cab, Black & White Checker, Comfort Cab, and San Francisco Am. Taxi. The cab companies fully support the goals of MUNI's Paratransit program. We endorsed a proposal from Bruce Allen Hamilton in partnership with GPS Data Solutions. We understand our endorsement helped GPS win the bid for the project. We endorsed them b/c they teamed with local credible companies/individuals, they planned to use open architecture system allowing multiple vendors and hardware to be selected by taxi co. and they would have included taxi co. in the design and implementation of the system. None of these factors materialized.
• Pres. Jackson: Asked whether above companies had any of the equipment.
• Ms. Ward: No
• Pres. Jackson: How do they know this won't work if they don't have it?
• Ms. Ward: We're not concerned that the hardware won't work, we're concerned that we were not involved in the design and implementation of the program. We're all different companies and putting us into the same box where everything is the same and we didn't put any input, doesn't work.
• Pres. Jackson: There were many cab companies (not all) that were involved.
• C. Ward: DeSoto Cab was not involved. We signed endorsements and the gentleman involved with GPS solutions told us something different than what we endorsed.
• Pres Jackson: So your complaint is w/him?
• Ms. Ward: My complaint is w/the general contractor. They had someone out there saying incorrect things
• Comm. Kwok: Asking why they don't agree and why they feel they weren't involved.
• Ms. Ward: The program isn't the issue, its the way its being implemented.
• Comm. Gillespie: What do you feel is a good solution/compromise to move forward?
• Ms. Ward: Feels the project hasn't been open. They need more than three 1 hr. appointments with taxi companies.
• Comm. Gillespie: If the cab companies were able to choose any system to put in, would you feel more comfortable w/the program? Or do you feel its a flawed program?
• Ms. Ward: Feels this project is flawed and there are many unanswered questions.
• Pres. Jackson: What are the three 1 hr. appointments?
• Ms. Ward: I think it was in the proposal that companies would have three 1 hr. appointments to get feedback.
• Pres. Jackson: No one from your company sat in on the planning committee? Did you ask to sit in?
• Ms. Ward: Not that I'm aware of. I didn't know planning meetings were going on.
• Nick Luis: Feels funding by federal money is wrong.
• Mark Gruberg: Referring to a document from the public table that shows a financial statement. Noticed enormous profit involved here.
• Pres. Jackson: This cost sheet wasn't provided by the contractor.
• Mr. Gruberg: Admits that it's not accurate but it's troubling information. Feels there should be an audit b/c it shows unpleasant profits.

• Comm. Gillespie: MUNI, is there a budget?
• Roger Nguyen: Yes, that was done by our consultant. The document that was provided is not a MUNI document.

6 STAFF REPORT

Heidi Machen, Executive Director: Introduced new staff: Vicky Siu, Principal Clerk and T. Bettencourt, Senior Administrative Analyst. Gave an update on the meetings she attended and correspondences received and sent. She reported the following companies had submitted their financial statements as required by law:

1. Black & White Checker
2. National Cab (incomplete - only 1 yr.)
3. Executive Taxi
4. Yellow Cab Co-op
5. Delta Cab
6. Town Taxi
7. Big Dog City Co. (incomplete - only 1 yr.)
8. Luxor Cab Co.
9. DeSoto Cab Co.
10. ABC Taxi (incomplete - only 1 yr.)

We need to get the complete financial statements from the ones who've already provided part of the statements and from those who haven't turned it in so the Controller's office can make a recommendation on what the next meter should be set at. She reported that the A-card renewal payment deadline was today. The commission will calendar revocation for those delinquent drivers on September 27th. For those drivers, please plan to attend if you want to plead your case.

Finally, she has scheduled Tesfaye Chuffa for a hearing on his ramp medallion issue to go before a DPT hearing officer for his recommendation on October 7th. Will hear the hearing officer's ruling to make a final decision on the matter. It will not need to go before the commission. This concludes staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Barry Taranto: Went to the grand opening of Octavia and its a wonderful addition and hopes cab drivers use it to better serve passengers. Its a problem that you can't make a right turn and hopes this sign will come down.
• Peter Witt: Expressed concerns about the 'no right turn' signs on Market St. Regarding financial statements, believes gates were raised and should be addressed. As for the CVB, did they make a formal complaint to the Taxi Detail?
• Comm. Gillespie: Requests to find out if the 2 lanes on O'Farrell/Geary are only for buses or for both buses and taxis.
• Ms. Machen, Exec. Director: Will look into it but hears from the audience that they are for both buses and taxis.
• Comm. Breslin: There is some confusion driving up and down that street.
• Comm. Smith: Taxis have been getting ticketed. He understood that the only diamond lanes to not go on are freeways and N Judah line.
• Comm. Breslin: Asked that the executive director look into the diamond lane issue. Time for public comment.

7 PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Mr. Witt: Asking if the commission knows what customer service and customer surveys are. Expressed that everyone except this commission does this. Gave brief summary of a survey. Talked about traffic models and web sites to visit.

• Elizabeth Bradley, Yellow Cab Co-op driver for 8 ½ yrs.: Expressed that the gas price is getting in the way of her income. Paying $1000/mth more in gas.
• Mr. Taranto: Confirmed that the O'Farrell/Geary diamond lane is for taxis also. Wants to see the gas issue put on the next agenda now. Would rather not wait for the report. Also wants to hear the commission's interests on what they want to hear in the future meeting.
• Jim Gillespie, Luxor Cab: John Lazar wanted him to convey that Luxor Cab is ready for the debit card program. We got a scrip today that expired June 30, 1998. We won't have to worry about this w/the debit card program. Requests that the gas issue be calendared on the next agenda.
• Comm. Breslin: Asked if he thinks the surcharge will out price the cabs from other transportations? Can that be asked in your survey?
• Mr. Gillespie: We can put it into the survey and maybe have a choice of $0.50 or $1.00.
• Mark Gruberg: Compared past gas prices to today's. Expressed his concerns for rising gas prices also. Would like to see the surcharge in effect. Maybe something that would involve increases/decreases as gas prices go up/down.

8 CLOSES SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

• Ms. Machen, Exec. Director: Staff is asking that this item be continued.
• Pres. Jackson: Commissioners will continue the item. Next Item?

9 Adjournment

Adjourned meeting at 9:11pm.

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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September 27, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the September 13, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report [INFORMATION]
6. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
7. Discussion and possible action on meter surcharge to compensate for rising gas prices. [DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION]
8. Adjournment

25 Van Ness Avenue, Room 420, San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 503-2180 * Fax (415) 503-2186 * email: sftaxi.commission@sfgov.org * www.sfgov.org/taxicommission

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
September 27, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Abias Abud	Esayas Araya	Richard Chug	Tayfun Coskun
Hamdy Elmahy	Boldbaatar Genden	Redouane Ghaleb	Sadiq Hafith
Ammar Kaid	Jeremy Kelly	Shagun Khatri	Hanif Mohamed
Peter Morel	Osman E. Osman	Tony Pham	Matra Rai
Chundi Sherpa	Sabina Simmons	Jaya Tamang	Rennan Telles
Assefa Tsegaye			

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Juan Honorio	1295	Luxor Cab to Union Cab
2. Chuck Bun Tong	787	Regents Cab to DeSoto Cab **(Request Withdrawn**
3. Darren L. Harris	1255	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
4. Bhan S. Sandhu	1158	Fog City Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
5. Mohammed Elsayed	672	DeSoto Cab to Crown Cab
6. Francis Wilson	802	Worldwide Cab to Metro Cab
7. Peter D. Kleinman	921	National Cab to Metro Cab
8. Kurt Alan Schumacher	1292	Metro Cab to DeSoto Cab
9. Alex Hassan Mofrad	1239	United Cab to Crown Cab
10. Ahmad Mahmoud Albowyha	9010	Yellow Cab to DeSoto Cab
11. Fadel Zaru	942	DeSoto Cab to Union Cab **(Request Withdrawn)**

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to revoke the following Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits for failure to pay the required annual license fee in accordance with Municipal Police Code §2.17. (Complete list available at the Taxi Commission, Taxicab Detail and at the Hearing)

D. Final Decision by Executive Director Regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of Revocation of the Driver Public Vehicle for Hire Permit held by Mr. Daoud Obaid **(Continued from September 13, 2005 meeting)**

E. Approval of Final Decision by Executive Director regarding recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of settlement for Diane Cohen

F. Discussion and Possible Approval of San Francisco Super Cab Color Scheme Change from purple and white to yellow and white.

G. Discussion and Possible Approval of Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme for London Taxis to be effective October 17, 2005 – November 7, 2005. Applicants are Luxor Cab Company, Medallion Nos. 1214, 136 & 823 and Royal Cab Company, Medallion Nos. 792 & 1205. Advertiser will be Microsoft.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

A. The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the September 27, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Barry Alhadeff	*18*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
2. Richard De Causemaker	*718*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
3. Steven A. Gold	*280*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
4. Marwan Mohammad Deisich	*1030*	*Crown Cab to DeSoto Cab*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, plea contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Plea be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, s 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

September 27, 2005

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
September 27, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith

ABSENT: Kwok

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:32 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Heidi Machen, T. Bettencourt, - Taxi Commission; Inspector Farrell Suslow, Jean Sloat - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL - A quorum is present

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 13 SEPTEMBER 2005 TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Commissioner Smith moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Gillespie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: none
ABSENT: none
RECUSED: none

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR
A) Approval by the Taxi Commission of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle Permits
Commissioner Smith moved to approve. Commissioner Gillespie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: none
ABSENT: none
RECUSED: none

B) Approval by the Taxi Commission of Color Scheme changes

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Iraj Mahdari: re 4. B) 9. re: Alex Hassan Mofrad:
He was not aware that this medallion was to be removed from his color scheme. He wants to receive advice on his rights to recover his costs, since he has to change the

color of his cab and he will be out of work for two or three days. Is it legal to transfer a medallion which is under an existing contract? Can I recover costs? He requests that commission advise him on his legal rights, or give him a month to review this contract.

Commissioner Gillespie recused himself from the vote as it pertains to 4. B) 3, 4, and 10.
Commissioner Mc Guire recused herself from the vote as it pertains to 4. B) 6,7, and 8.

Comissioner Smith noted that Speck Cab/ DeSoto should correct their State Fund Insurance policies to name the Taxi Commission as a secondary insured. Speck Cab/ DeSoto representative said that she would call State Fund tomorrow to make the change.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve items 4. B) 1,2,5,9, 11, and 12. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES:
ABSENT:
RECUSED:

Commissioner Smith moved to approve items 4. B) 3,4, and 10. with Commissioner Gillespie recused. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES:
ABSENT:
RECUSED: Gillespie

Commissioner Smith moved to approve items 4. B) 6, 7, and 8 with Commissioner McGuire recused. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Paek; Smith
NOES:
ABSENT:
RECUSED: McGuire

C) Recommendation of the Taxi Commission to revoke all Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits which have unpaid renewal fees and penalties.

The following permit-holders requested an amnesty and extra time to settle their accounts.
Cortel Espinoza
Charles Henry
Shelley Burton
Richard Colston

Heidi Machen, Executive Director of the Taxi Commission, explained that the proposed Resolution 2005-63 would offer amnesty until 3 October 2005 to all drivers who attended the present meeting and requested such amnesty.

President Jackson informed the meeting that under this Resolution, anyone who signs the roster will receive this amnesty.

Commissioner Gillespie moved to approve Resolution 2005-63. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES:
ABSENT:
RECUSED:

D) Final Decision by Executive Director regarding Recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer to revoke the Driver Public Vehicle for Hire permit of Mr. Daoud Obaid.

Sgt Vince Simpson, SFPD Taxi Detail: Original recommendation of hearing officer was for revocation of the permit. An alternative recommendation was for Mr. Obaid to take an anger management course. Taxi Detail would like to add to the recommendation that if Mr. Obaid agrees to this recommendation that any incidents involving displays of anger or threats or violent behavior would constitute violation of his two-year probation.

Mr. Obaid said that he has enrolled in the anger management course, which begins 6 October and ends on 7 December, and that he will accept a two year probation.

Commissioner Smith asked whether Mr. Obaid understood Sgt Simpson's recommendations.

Mr. Obaid confirmed that he understood.

Commissioner Smith asked that Mr. Obaid's anger-management enrollment card go on record.

The Executive Director read into the record that she is in receipt of Mr. Obaid's anger-management enrollment card for a course running from 12 October through 7 December.

Commissioner McGuire expressed concern that this case took too long to be resolved. She hopes that the Commission can resolve these cases more rapidly so that if future cases are decided in favor of the accused, such accused would not suffer extended suspension.

Commissioner Smith moved that upon completion of the anger-management course, Mr. Obaid's Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permit shall be re-instated, and that he will be under a two-year probation which will begin on 7 December 2005 and run through 7 December 2006. Commissioner Breslin seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES:
ABSENT:
RECUSED:

E) Approval of Final of Final Decision regarding Recommendation by by Taxi Commission Hearing Officer in the matter of a Settlement with Diane Cohen.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Barry Taranto: Does not believe that Diane Cohen actually drives a taxi. Can she show any evidence that she drives. Asks Commission not to approve this item but to let the

Board of Appeals hear the matter.

Thomas George William: Is the city not enforcing its own rules?

Mark Gruberg: Opposes settlement. Board of Appeals has a different makeup now and may be more supportive of the Commission's revocation orders. Falsification of waybills is a very siginificant issue, and should be sufficient to justify permit revocation.

Diane Cohen: She was very sick when this happened. She has been driving for the last three years.

Geoffrey Rotwein, attorney for Diane Cohen: Ms. Cohen has driven continuously during 2004 and 2005. She had serious medical problems during 2000 and early 2001. He thinks there were serious procedural problems at the hearing before Hearing Officer Henry Epstein. The Executive Director of the time didn't issue her own written recommendation as required by the rules. Inspector Suslow agrees with this settlement. Ms. Cohen has proven that she is a committed , devoted, competent driver and will comply with the rules. The proposed punishment is serious enough. Their are many procedural and constitutional problems in this case. Ms Cohen needs the income. The settlement calls for a six-month suspension and a two-year probation

President Jackson asked whether he was saying that there were on fraudulent waybills.

Mr Rotwein says that there were some waybills which did not comply with the regulations. Ms Cohen has learned from her mistakes. Commission did not give her a fair hearing.

Commissioner McGuire noted that this came before the Commission on 8 June 2004. Does not think that Commission should act until they review the original case. Why has it taken so long for you to take this before the Board of Permit Appeals.

Mr Rotwein stated that they have a hearing in early November. Ms Cohen, Executive Director Machen, and Inspector Suslow decided that this settlement was acceptable.

President Jackson reminded Mr Rotwein that the Inspector and the Executive Director would speak for themselves.

Commissioner McGuire asked Ms Cohen when she drives.

Ms Cohen said that she drives Mon, Tues, Wed, nights at Bay Cab.

Commissioner McGuire re-stated that this case was originally brought before the Commission due to Ms Cohen's falsification of waybills and failure to drive her taxi. Doesn't think that Commission should take action until they have a chance to review the case.

Commissioner Gillespie reminded the Commission that this case was decided unanimously already. It is inappropriate for this to be in front of the Commission again. We should not base our decision on what we think the Board of Appeals might do. We finally have a staff that will strongly advocate for the Commission. This case met the stringent standards for revocation.

Commissioner Smith asked the Executive Director for clarification.

Executive Director Machen said that she had been advised by the City Attorney that the Board of Permit Appeals could reverse the Commission and recommend a much more lenient penalty. The Commission can refuse this item and it would then go to the Board of Permit Appeals.

President Jackson said that a decision to deny this settlement would retain the existing revocation decision.

Commissioner Smith moved to reject this settlement. Commissioner Gillespie seconded. Carried by unanimous vote.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES:
ABSENT:
RECUSED:

F) Discussion and approval of San Francisco Super Cab color scheme change from purple and white to yellow and white.

Jimmy Wong, SF Super Cab: Wants to increase visibility of his cabs.
Nathan Dwiri, Yellow Cab: Too many yellow taxis already.
Unidentified Speaker: This scheme looks too much like a Yellow Taxi company cab
TG Williams: Supports change
Commissioner McGuire suggested that more white be added to the color scheme.
Commissioner Smith said that this is too close to Yellow Taxi's colors.
Commissioner Gillespie agrees that this is too close to Yellow. Asked how many cabs are in the present color scheme.
Mr. Wong said that he has two cabs.
Commissioner Paek likes the purple colors. Sees no pressing reason to make this change.

Commissioner Smith moved to reject the color scheme. Commissioner Gillespie seconded. Passed by unanimous vote.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES:
ABSENT:
RECUSED:

G) Discussion and Possible Approval of Taxicab Wrap Color Scheme for London Taxis to be effective from 17 October 2005 until 7 November 2005. Applicants are Luxor Cabs numbered 1214, 136, and 823, and Royal cabs numbered 792, and 1205. Advertiser will be Microsoft.

Doug Macintosh representing London Fleets: This is to support a convention in San Francisco. Showed pictures of the proposed wrap.

Executive Director Machen reminded the representative that the words "San Francisco Taxicab" must appear on the sides of the cab.
Doug Macintosh, London Fleets agreed to do so.

TG Williams: said that this looks like a United Taxi
Barry Taranto: Doesn't look attractive.
Ruach Graffis: Looks like a Yellow cab, surprised that Commission would allow this

change and not the previous requestor's color change.
Unidentified Speaker: Looks like a United Cab.

Commissioner McGuire doesn't agree that it looks like a United Cab.

Commissioner Breslin reminds meeting that this is a temporary color change, not a permanent change. We should support conventions to improve taxi business.

Commissioner Paek doesn't feel that the design is attractive. Would have preferred to be presented with options, rather than just one design

Commissioner Breslin moved to approve the wrap. Commissioner Smith seconded.
Roll call vote:
Smith: Aye
Paek: Nay
McGuire: Aye
Gillespie: Nay
Breslin: Aye
Jackson: Aye
Motion to approve the color scheme passed 4-2

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; McGuire; Smith
NOES: Gillespie; Paek
ABSENT: RECUSED:

5. STAFF REPORT - Executive Director Heidi Machen

• Provided information about meetings, relevant correspondences and events since the last Taxicab Commission meeting, and introductions of items to calendar.

• On Friday, September 16, T. Bettencourt of my staff and I met with staff from the Controller's Office to discuss scope of a customer satisfaction survey that the Controller's Office will hopefully be conducting for the Commission in advance of the next Public Convenience and Necessity Hearing, planned for the first part of the year, 2006.

• On Thurs, Sept 22, staff attended the ISCOTT meeting. The big topics for discussion were the ski jump on Fillmore Street, and street closures for Halloween in the Castro.

• On events, I want to congratulate the Taxi Detail and the San Francisco Police force on quickly apprehending a cab driver accused of sexual assault while on duty. There are more than 6500 cab drivers in San Francisco - and, while it's a horrible thing when something like this happens, I want to assure the public that this is a highly unusual instance. There is high public contact in this industry - and, the Police perform criminal background checks on every driver before he obtains his driving permit.

• Finally, I have some items to calendar submitted by Commissioner Smith:

1. Request to calendar discussion about Cab stands at BART stations;
2. Request to calendar discussion about new Hybrid vehicles and new CNG vehicles and possibly extending their service to 6 years;
3. Request to calendar discussion of phony waybills;
4. Request to calendar discussion on Ramp taxi compliance.

That concludes my staff report.

Inspector Suslow thanked taxi company for its assistance to police in this matter. Reiterated that Taxi Detail does background checks on drivers, and that these kinds of incidents are extremely rare. There was another incident a few hours later, involving a hit-and-run in which some cab drivers were instrumental in apprehending a suspect. Their names are Tuleo Silva, Wasif Sheikh from Yellow Cab, and Barry Malton from Luxor. Thanked those drivers for their help. More drivers doing good things.

Barry Taranto: Wants details about what happened. Reminder about Fillmore Street ski jump. Golf Tournament at Harding Park, soon. Wants to see a PC&N hearing soon.

Unidentified Speaker believes that police allow out-of-town taxis to pick up passengers at Candlestick Park. This is against the law.

Commissioner Gillespie: There is a Paratransit working group set up to administer funding. They have put together a very good package describing the workings of the Paratransit program. Requested that staff gets a copy of this report and distributes it to all Commissioners. Their next meeting is scheduled in November. SF Transportation Authority at 522-4800 could provide this document.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT
Commissioner Breslin called for Radwan Rashid. He was not present.

Carl McMurdo: ADA accommodation should be provided for permit applicants, not just for permit holders. Ibrahim Awwad would have received his permit by now if he hadn't suffered an accident. He should receive his medallion without delay. Computer screen kiosks are too big in some cabs. Passengers are forced to exit on the unsafe side of the cab. Thanked Heidi Machen for her setting up training to advise new drivers to be polite and that short rides are profitable. Top lights on cabs are not sufficiently visible. We need a green light on top to let customers know that a cab is available.

Barry Taranto: Happy with Oracle conferences. Provided lots of business. There were too many shuttle buses, which made it difficult to pick up and drop off. 49ers games are difficult to service. Access for taxis is not promoted.

Thomas George Williams- UTW: Read his list of the most corrupt and driver-unfriendly hotels, compiled from a driver survey. First on list was the Hyatt Regency, Grand Hyatt, Omni Hotel which provides house cars legal or not, Hilton Tower violating its own rules, Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf, Serrano Hotel, Argent Hotel, Hyatt Northpoint, Parc 55 where security guards beat up drivers who complained about limos, PanPacific, Sir Francis Drake with a highly corrupt doorman in a clown's uniform, Mandarin Oriental which only calls cabs before limos get up in the morning. We will call for a protest of all of these hotels and surround these hotels with cabs. See our website for more information after next week.

Taso Zografos: Assembled a team to provide a debit card system for the Paratransit system. They designed an open-architecture system. Cab companies signed on. Team included GPS Data Solutions, acting as prime contractor. They couldn't meet the bond requirements. Contract was sold to DDS. He filed a complaint with the Office of the Inspector General. Commends the Taxi Companies for standing up for themselves.

Commissioner Breslin: What is your opinion of the equipment that is being offered? Is it antiquated?

Mr. Zografos: Yes it is outdated. They are offering equipment that is not generally available anymore.

Commissioner Breslin: We should work toward providing the best solution and the best equipment.

Liz Bradley: Drove for a decade. It is fun. Has seen tremendous changes. When she started there were only 1,000 cabs. The dotcom era is over, now. Traffic at the Oracle party was not managed well. Too many tickets being given to cabbies picking up and dropping off fares.

Ruach Graffis with UTW: Please allow drivers to comment on traffic changes. Transportation Authority webpage www.sfcta.org shows many future traffic changes. Drivers should get involved. At Candlestick Park, drivers have to pick up at the remote Gate D.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON METER SURCHARGE TO COMPENSATE FOR RISING GAS PRICES

Executive Director Heidi Machen offered some background:

San Francisco has adopted meter rate surcharge specifically to compensate for the high price of gas at least once in the last twenty five years, in 1981 (copy enclosed in packets). As gas prices escalate around the country, especially as a result of Hurricane Katrina, a handful of other cities have approved measures to help taxi drivers recover their profit loss from gas costs.

Since January 2003, the rates of fare for taxicabs has been: $2.85 for the first fifth of a mile or flag drop; 45 cents for each additional fifth of a mile or fraction; and .45 for each one minute of wait or traffic delay time. San Francisco taxicab meter rates are among the top three most expensive meter rates in the country, below Phoenix and Las Vegas.

The San Francisco City and County Controller's Office has begun gathering data to make its bi-annual recommendation on taxi meter rates and intends to address the issue of gas prices in making its calculation.

Anecdotally, we know that it is costing drivers between $10-20 more per shift on gasoline. And, anytime meter rates are increased, we know that it costs the Muni Paratransit program more money to operate. The last time meter rates were increased, Muni was allowed to pass this cost on to taxicab companies at an amount compensating for the increased costs. That legislation sunsets on December 31, 2005.

CONCLUSION: This item is a discussion and possible action item.

Jim Gillespie, SF Taxi Association: Read his letter. Many cities have raised rates to help taxi drivers with the increased cost of gas. Surveys of SF drivers show support for a 50cent gas surcharge. Recommends a 50 cent to $1 surcharge per trip. Expire it in 120 days. Waive meter inspection fees.

TG Williams: Survey not good enough. Cabs compete with private cars and limos. Improve rider awareness of value of taxis. Mandate more-efficient cabs.

Mickey Kelley, National Cab: 50cents to $1 added to drop on meter. Surcharge is confusing. People know price of gas is high.

Barry Taranto: Surcharge can be used flexibly. Please act tonight since process takes a lot of time.

John Nakis: Supports a meter surcharge. More gas price increases to come.

Kris Kelley: Urges approval of a gas surcharge.

Mark Gruberg: Price volatility is great. Should establish a surcharge. Signs on cabs to inform riders. Easier to adjust a surcharge. Create a trigger mechanism. Suggests 50cent to $1 surcharge. Set a formula so that we don't have to go back to the Board of Supervisors. Controller should do the math.

Ruach Graffis: Gas costs doubled in three years. Surcharge is better than meter.

Mike Spain, PDA: Gas cost doubled. Please take action. $1 per fare seems fair.

President Jackson: Asked for comment from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillespie: Would like to delay action pending further study. Would like to see comparison with top 10 or 20 cities in America, some cities have implemented such increases. (Executive Director Machen handed such a list to him). Can this list be given to the other commissioners? Three things that we need to do besides raising the fares:
We need to reclaim the business at the hotels which has been taken by limos.
We need to expand our mode share to get new riders.
We need to encourage the use of higher-mileage vehicles, such as hybrids. Gas prices are here to stay.
We should consider the effect of this on Paratransit. Cost to the Paratransit program is very large when meters increase.
Would like to resolve multiple issues at once, rather than try to have more than one meter increase per year. Any request to the Board of Supervisors should include a strong statement in support of more-efficient vehicles.

Commissioner Smith: Drivers are paying far too much for gas. Their incomes are suffering. We need at least a 75 cent raise tonight. Yellow cab bought 50 new hybrid vehicles. Maybe we should ask them to buy 150. Increase should be added to the drop. That would be the least expensive method. Recommends adding 75cents to the drop.

Commissioner McGuire: Bush administration becoming unpopular. Can we use the language from the fuel surcharge from 1981?

Executive Director Machen: No gas surcharge allowable under current rules. Commission can instruct her to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors. City Controller is doing the current biennial review of meter rates. We are optimistically expecting some information from them in November.

Commissioner McGuire: How would we put this forward?

Executive Director Machen: You could instruct the Executive Director to write a letter to the Board proposing a drop charge increase, an addition to the "extras" button on meters, a mileage increase, or other methods.

Commissioner Smith: The drop is the simplest and safest method.

Commissioner Paek: This is clearly justified. We should take action as fast as possible. Tonight would be ideal.

Commissioner Breslin: Has concerns with loss of competitiveness. Service should be up to a standard. Raising the drop is harder on the consumer. Thresholds for setting and reversing the surcharge are important. A sunset should be used to end the surcharge. Has questions about how to use signage to advise passengers.

Commissioner Smith: The public is ready for this.

Commissioner Breslin: Is in favor of some measure. Let the public know that it is temporary.

Commissioner McGuire: Signage is an expedient method. Meter changes are costly and time-consuming. Likes the language in the 1981 ordinance with changes to make it current.

Commissioner Gillespie: Wants Paratransit to have time to review effect. More staff work is needed. Controller is also working on meter rates. A recommendation now might duplicate efforts.

Commissioner Paek: Short fares may get lost but long fares should make up the difference. Need to help drivers now.

President Jackson: We should propose language that includes the need to remain competitive with other modes, offset high gas prices, encourage hybrids, minimize the effect on Paratransit and seniors. If we wait until the next meeting, the Board of Supervisors will not hear this for a long time. What does the attorney/Executive Director suggest?

Executive Director Machen: You all want to provide relief to drivers. You can make a general recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and copy it to the Controller which can roll it into their own report.

Commissioner McGuire: The Board of Supervisors process allows time and opportunity for public involvement.

President Jackson: Drivers are making no money.

Commissioner Smith: Moves to recommend that the Board of Supervisors raise the drop by 75 cents.

No Second

Commissioner Smith: Restated to raise the drop 50 cents to $1 with all of the codicils attached. Retracted motion.

Commissioner Breslin: Recommends to the Board, through a letter from the Executive Director that they increase either the surcharge or the meter drop by an amount that will compensate for the high increase of gas, and that they consider all of the points that President Jackson mentioned earlier. Expedience, concerns about Paratransit, maintaining competitiveness, that would include public education. Include Commissioner McGuire's concern that the surcharge not be taken by the companies.

Executive Director Machen: When Controller reviews meter rates, they will also

review gate fees.

Commissioner Gillespie: We aren't doing our job. We should do more research. We should continue this item so that our staff can put together a resolution.

Commissioner Paek: Two more weeks could result in several more months delay.

President Jackson: Withdraws motion.

Commissioner Gillespie: Moves to continue this item to the next meeting.

No Second.

Commissioner Breslin: Asked Executive Director to read back the earlier motion.

Executive Director Machen: The Commission would like the Executive Director to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors with a copy to the Controller's office, to increase either the surcharge or the meter by an amount to compensate for the high cost of gas. Include in their deliberations the desire to have this be expedient, to maintain competitiveness of taxis, to be Paratransit-friendly, to contain a public-education component, to encourage more hybrid cabs, and to protect the gate amount for drivers. Include a favorable review of the 1981 language, and inform the Board of the historic fuel surcharge.

Commissioner Breslin: Made such motion. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion passed 5-1
Roll Call Vote
Smith: Aye
Paek: Aye
McGuire: Aye
Gillespie: Nay
Breslin: Aye
Jackson: Aye

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: Gillespie
ABSENT: RECUSED:

Commissioner Breslin: Follow-up to the Executive Director to report at the next meeting if there is anything that need to be changed. Please work with Commissioner Gillespie. The process isn't over.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

October 11, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

23
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10/11/05

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes for the September 27, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Staff Report [INFORMATION]
6. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
7. Adjournment .

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Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
October 11, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Ramsis Aljawi	Borhane Belabed	Henry Bui	Robert Cascella
Wallen Bailey	Abdel Benladghem	Siarhei Bubnou	Kowk Chan
Herman Chan	Clayton DaSilva	Michael Dang	Thep Dechanu
Ian Enggasser	Carlos Florentino	Ambaye Gezahagne	David Golchehreh
Joseph Greco	Ali Khan	Danilo Montes	Ubiratan Santos
Aydin Er	Aden Fahiye	Mebrahtu Haile	Patrick Jennings
Edmond Kwong	Anibal Lopez	Claudius Ramos	Andrey Sarkisov
Angelina Serafino	Carlos Simaj	Surjit Singh	Yibrie Sirage
Kamaljit Singh	Lisa Stenson	Binyam Teklezghi	Temesgen Tesfay
Jeffry Skaggs	Antonio Valle		

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1.	Barry Alhadeff	18	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
2.	Richard De Causemaker	718	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
3.	Steven A. Gold	280	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
4.	Marwan Mohammad Deisich	1030	Crown Cab to DeSoto Cab

C. Approval of Final Decision by Executive Director regarding recommendation submitted by the Taxi Commission Hearing Officer.

1. Approval of suspension of Taxicab Vehicle Medallion #436 held by Mr. Hayward Wong with possible revocation of medallion permit.
2. Approval of 172 hours Community Service for John Webb, Permit # 237
3. Approval of two weeks Suspension of Permit # 55101 held by Mohammad Jabari and six (6) months probation.

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

A. The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the October 25, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:
COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

	Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1.	*Radwan M. Rashid*	*9067*	*B&W Checker to DeSoto Cab*
2.	*Raed A. Sweis*	*9007*	*B&W Checker to DeSoto Cab*
3.	*Frank Wong*	*1213*	*Bay Cab to DeSoto Cab*
4.	*Wing Yiu Kam*	*1215*	*Bay Cab to Union Cab*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

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Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Adele Destro, Interim Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by e-mail at sotf@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

October 11, 2005

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
October 11, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith

ABSENT: None

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Director Heidi Machen, Vicky Siu - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Inspector Farrell Suslow, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Lieutenant Jeannie Scholtz - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE September 27, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

• Comm. Gillespie: Is pleased with the minutes-likes how the Commissioner's comments are being documented as they were never documented in the past. Hopes this is kept up in the future.
• Comm. Smith: Also feels the minutes are well done and Executive Director is doing a good job.
• Comm. Breslin: Would like to see minutes more abbreviated. Wants September 27, 2005 minutes adjusted to reflect that Thomas George-Williams comments is specifically related to taxis and limos only and they are his personal opinion.
• Executive Director, Heidi Machen: Appreciates all comments and will take note of all suggestions. States that we will be refining this and spending the right amount of staff time on minutes to satisfy both legal requirements and efficient use of staff time. Regarding the hotel comment, when you're hearing a public comment, you're already noting the person making the comment. By doing so, you're noting the opinion of the person making that comment. We will make the correction on previous

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minutes.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Kwok motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger Vehicle). Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Change). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

• Comm. Smith: Would like to see the Taxi Commission listed as the secondary insured on worker's comp forms that are submitted for Color Scheme Changes.
• Executive Director, Heidi Machen: Stated we would need time to notify the taxi companies to make this change but we will notifying them within the next week. Restated that Commissioner Smith would like Taxi Commission to send out notice to all taxi companies requesting to list the Taxi Commission as the secondary insured on worker's comp forms that are submitted for Color Scheme Changes.

Approved Color Scheme Changes:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Barry Alhadeff	18	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
2. Richard De Causemaker	718	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
3. Steven A. Gold	280	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
4. Marwan Mohammad Deisich	1030	Crown Cab to DeSoto Cab

4C1 Commissioner Smith motioned to rehear 4C1 (Approval of suspension of Taxicab Vehicle Medallion #436 held by Hayward Wong with possible revocation of medallion permit). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-1.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok; Paek, Smith
NOES: McGuire
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

• Sgt. Simpson: Gave brief summary of incident. Recommended that maybe the Executive Director might want to review if a scheduling of a surgery would qualify as far as physician documentation of the surgery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Barry Taranto: Feels that plenty of time was given to Hayward Wong to schedule his cataract surgery. Why has it taken so many years because Mr. Wong reported his bad eyesight in 1999. There's no documentation showing that he has a sight problem. Wants to know why he didn't take care of this at that time? Requested that the Commission is not lenient with this case and asks serious questions before approving anything.

• Thomas George-Williams: Notes that Mr. Wong clearly drove to Yellow Cab to pick up his check-his monthly payment of $1800. This is hard work for other drivers without medallions who wait on the list for one. Questions if the police actually trained to look through medical records/language?
• Comm. Gillespie: Asked Mr. Wong, when did you first start driving a taxi?
• Hayward Wong: Long time ago...I don't remember. At least 20 years.
• Comm. Gillespie: When did you get your medallion?
• City Attorney Owen: He got it in 1994.
• Hayward Wong: Around there but I don't remember what date.
• Comm. Gillespie: Why did you stop driving?
• Hayward Wong: That's when I moved to Yellow Cab.
• Comm. Gillespie: Why did you stop driving?
• Hayward Wong: I worked with Yellow Cab and tried to transfer the company over there and after I finished, I noticed I couldn't see that well.
• Comm. Gillespie: How did you get here tonight?
• Hayward Wong: I drove here tonight.
• Comm. Gillespie: Do you drive yourself or your family? Do you expect to go back to driving full time?
• Hayward Wong: Rarely, most of the time I take the bus or my family drives me. If I get my eyesight back, yes. If not, I won't drive. It's not safe for me to drive.
• Comm. Gillespie: Did you take a driver's test?
• Hayward Wong: Do you mean for my driver's license? No I haven't taken it, it's not required.
• Pres. Jackson: Why did you drive yourself tonight if you can't see? Why didn't you take a cab?
• Hayward Wong: I didn't think about it.
• Comm. Smith: Why was your ADA request incomplete? Is there a reason why it's taken so long to get your operation for your cataracts?
• Hayward Wong: I didn't know the request was incomplete. We didn't know what I was going to do.
• Comm. Smith: You asked for more time. If you got your operation tomorrow, you're going to be able to drive. You'll know one way or another. Don't you think you should get the operation as soon as possible and get your paper work in, in case you needed an accommodation? And if you need an accommodation, they'll give you one. But if you put it off any longer, I could only see going with the Executive Director's recommendation.
• Hayward Wong: I didn't know that you could take it and the next couple days I would know. Can you let me go until I get an appointment with the doctor and a letter?
• Comm. McGuire: For how long did you own Sunshine Cab Company? Long time?
• Hayward Wong: At least 20 years, I don't know.
• Comm. McGuire: Doesn't feel empathy because as far as I know, he's not a long time driver and feels this is being misrepresented and doesn't understand why he hasn't scheduled his surgery.
• Comm. Kwok: Referred to a letter from Mr. Wong. On March 16, 2005, Mr. Wong informed the Commission that he would not be scheduling his surgery until this fall. Asked Mr. Wong for the truth about why he couldn't schedule his surgery until 6 months later because he doesn't see anything that would support Mr. Wong if he's telling the truth.
• Hayward Wong: I can't really give you a reason why.
• ED, Heidi Machen: Stated that the Commission can decide to adopt the recommendation or to rehear this case.
• City Attorney Owen: Added that the Commission can also decide to continue.
• ED, Heidi Machen: Clarified the timeline: the suspension of Mr. Wong's permit would not go into affect until November 1st and would have until November 20th to give us the dates for his surgeries and an estimate from his physician of the period required for him to complete his surgery.
• Comm. Smith: Motioned to approve the recommendation.

• Comm. Kwok: Seconded.
• Comm. Paek: Mentioned that it's quite disturbing that Mr. Wong did not have a representative with him to articulate better and if he should come before the Commission in the future, she would like to see him being represented.
• Pres. Jackson: Expressed that the Commission doesn't want anyone to appear before us and not understand or feel that communication wasn't appropriate. We support everyone having that opportunity. He's concerned that Mr. Wong is someone who has been driving 20 years and would hope that he would have a better understanding of what's going on.
• ED, Heidi Machen: Took roll call vote. Motion passes 6-1.

4C2 Commissioner Kwok motions to rehear 4C2 (Approval of 172 hours Community Service for John Webb, Permit# 237). Commissioner Gillespie seconded.

AYES: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

• Insp. Farrell Suslow: Gave a brief summary of the case.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Barry Taranto: He has never heard of community service being used as a form of punishment. Feels that Mr. Webb can still make money with his medallion and even after doing his community service and this won't hurt him. We do benefit him by him volunteering but wants to see Mr. Webb fined or suspended.
• Ruach Graffis: Spoke for herself saying how amazed she is that community service is being considered. Feels this is a very mild punishment. Mr. Webb didn't fulfill his driving requirement and a fine should be in order.
• Comm. Gillespie: I'm not against community service but requests for someone to explain what it entails or what an alternative would be rather than a suspension.
• City Attorney Tom Owen: Project 20 is run through the sheriff's office. I don't know whether it's a diversion or a post conviction program. Community service will, in this instance, depend on what satisfies the Executive Director as being appropriate.
• Comm. Kwok: After hearing from Ruach and Barry, I am open to adding financial penalties because he isn't sure that community service is enough.
• Comm. McGuire: States that this case is from 1997, wants to know why it's only now coming before the Commission. Expressed that the Commission went through months of establishing fines, why isn't a fine being applied? Excuse of not being able to find a cab to drive is not an excuse. Cannot go along with community service.
• City Attorney Owen: Clarified that the fines Comm. McGuire is referring to are infraction fines for violations of Commission rules. This isn't a case of violation of the Commission rules and this hasn't been prosecuted by the District Attorney's Offices of Infraction. We also have administrative penalties.
• Comm. McGuire: Restated her question, why are there no administrative penalties or suspension or revocation?
• Comm. Smith: States that Mr. Webb has been a stellar driver since 2000 and doesn't think he should even do the entire 172 hours. Does not see why they are only now hearing this case when the incident happened in 1997.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Agrees with Comm. McGuire and Comm. Smith that this is very untimely and that Mr. Webb has remedied his behavior. Community service is a good idea as the public benefits from it. However, wants to propose that it shouldn't be equal to the infraction, it should be more - add more hours. Would like to see an option for fines not a suspension of the medallion. But from what she understands, they cannot propose a fine at this point. But if we can propose more community service, she would favor that.

• Comm. Kwok: Asked what the Commission's options are?
• City Attorney Owen: States that you will need a majority vote to rehear the case to change the penalty. Then it would take a 2/3 vote.
• Comm. McGuire: States that she will not vote for community service. Feels this is going in the wrong direction. Would like to have an administrative penalty or suspension.
• Comm. Gillespie: Asked if they should motion to adopt the decision and ask for an explanation of community service or should they continue this until they get an explanation? Would prefer to continue it.
• Pres. Jackson: States that because this case is already old, they should not continue it any longer.
• John Webb: Explained what he will be doing for his community service-working at Glide Memorial's kitchen doing various assigned tasks. He has the form that explains his community service.
• ED, Heidi Machen: Reiterates her recommendation of 172 hours of community service.
• Pres. Jackson: Asked Executive Director to explain what happens if the Commission votes 'no' on her recommendation.
• ED, Heidi Machen: If you decide no, you will also decide to rehear this at the next meeting. You would also need a 2/3 vote to decide on another penalty.
• Comm. Smith: Motions to approve the director's recommendation.
• Comm. Paek: Seconds.
• ED, Heidi Machen: Took roll call vote. Motion fails 4-3.
• Comm. Kwok: Motions to rehear this case at the next meeting.
• Comm. Gillespie: Seconded.

4C3 Commissioner Gillespie motioned to rehear 4C3 (Approval of two weeks suspension of Permit # 55101 held by Mohammad Jabari and six months probation). Commissioner Kwok seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-1.

AYES: Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Paek; Smith
NOES: Jackson
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None

• Insp. Farrell Suslow: Gave a brief summary of case.

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Barry Taranto: This case disturbed him the most. We're losing business because of people like Mr. Jabari. Saturday night he saw the same thing happen and nothing is being done about it. Officer Nevin should get an award for how he handled this. Instead he's being told by Inspector Suslow "Screw you." Inspector Suslow recommended a two weeks suspension and a year's probation to begin after the Commission reaches a decision of this case. One, the Taxi Detail doesn't have enough staff to be out there all the time. Two, you don't know how many times Mr. Jabari has done this in his out of town cab. Three, we have to send a message: This is not ok. And four, he's a San Francisco cab driver with an A-Card. He should know better than to pick up a passenger with an out of town taxicab. Revoke his A-Card tonight.
• Thomas George-Williams: I am not sure why I pay thousands of dollars for a medallion in this city if it's not protected. You caught an out of town driver who has an A-Card so you can actually do something about his A-Card. Feels maybe we need a boot camp for taxi drivers. States that the Commission should revoke Mr. Jabari's A-Card and that he will also go to Pacifica town hall to ask them to do the same thing. He is using the system and he is violating a law and operating a non-San Francisco taxicab in San Francisco. This is a fine over $4000 and you want to give him two weeks, that's a joke.

• Comm. Gillespie: Asked him if he would like to say anything about his case.
• Mohammad Jabari: States he's defending himself and that when he picked up the officer, he explained to him that he had just dropped someone off from Pacifica. He admits his mistake and says he does not operate a non-San Francisco cab in San Francisco. He gave me a two week suspension and 1 year probation and I asked how about 6 months?
• Comm. Gillespie: Asks Mr. Jabari to clarify if he has both a San Francisco A-Card and license to drive in Pacifica.
• Mohammad Jabari: Yes, but I didn't operate the Pacifica cab in San Francisco. I know it's illegal.
• Comm. Gillespie: Asked if he was driving a Pacifica cab the night of the incident and picked someone up in San Francisco and he said he wanted to go to Fisherman's Wharf and you turned the meter on and started taking him to Fisherman's Wharf?
• Mohammad Jabari: Yes.
• Comm. Gillespie: Why?
• Mohammad Jabari: Well it was Saturday night, he was begging me and I didn't know he was an officer. I know myself that this is illegal.
• Comm. Gillespie: You knew that it was illegal to pick up anyone outside of Pacifica-you couldn't pick up in San Francisco?
• Mohammad Jabari: I was not sure about that. I know that now.
• Comm. Gillespie: Do you want to keep your A-Card so you can drive in the future in San Francisco?
• Mohammad Jabari: Yes. I want to drive in the future in San Francisco if I need to.
• Comm. McGuire: Asked what company he was driving for in San Francisco when this happened and what night this happened?
• Mohammad Jabari: States that he drove with Yellow Cab in San Francisco and this happened on a Saturday night. States that there were no shifts so he had to drive in Pacifica.
• Comm. McGuire: Asked if the gate fees are cheaper in Pacifica?
• Mohammad Jabari: Yes the gates are cheaper in Pacifica than in San Francisco.
• Comm. McGuire: Because you couldn't get a shift in San Francisco, you went to Pacifica to get a cab then work the Outer Mission in San Francisco?
• Mohammad Jabari: No.
• Comm. Smith: Can you operate the Pacifica cab in Daly City also?
• Mohammad Jabari: No.
• Comm. Smith: You crossed two jurisdictions when you went into San Francisco to make the pick up and you knew that it was wrong to pick up in San Francisco?
• Mohammad Jabari: Yes.
• Comm. McGuire: When you drove for Yellow Cab and saw an out of town cab picking up fares, how did you feel?
• Mohammad Jabari: I wasn't angry but I know it's not professional. Its not my job to go after the non-San Francisco cabs to tell them they can't pick up here, they might hit me or shoot me.
• Comm. McGuire: Feels Officer Nevin did too much work to only give Mr. Jabari a two week suspension. This is very much just a slap on the wrist and this is our opportunity to make a point. She realizes that Mr. Jabari is trying to make a living but he did agree that what he did was wrong. He has chosen to drive in Pacifica and the drivers are calling for a revocation of the A-Card.
• Comm. Smith: States that this is Mr. Jabari's first offense but two weeks is not repentance. Maybe increase it to six months?
• Comm. Gillespie: Motions to rehear this case.
• Comm. Kwok: Seconded.
• City Attorney Owen: Reminded Commissioners that they need to rehear the tapes from the hearing and review the materials before the next meeting and stated the rules regarding a rehearing.

5 STAFF REPORT

Executive Director, Heidi Machen: Gave an update on the meetings she attended and correspondences received and sent.

Comm. Kwok requested to calendar discussion and possible action on increasing the fee for Driver Public Passenger Vehicle Permits to be used to fund an investigative position for the Taxicab Commission. Vice Pres. Breslin requested an audit of taxicab schools with an eye towards making sure the curriculum includes enough attention to customer service. Specifically she would like to review syllabus and agendas for the school. Comm. Smith requested to calendar a discussion with DPT about making a right turn onto the freeway from Market onto Octavia Street entrance. He also requested a discussion with DPT about moving the one way portion of Howard Street one block east to Beale Street letting Muni buses make right turns onto Howard from Beale with other vehicles safer. Also requested to calendar discussion with DPT about how to plan for events like the golf tournaments, where to park and let passengers off and where to pick up passengers, specifically interested in having more industry participation in these discussions. I explained to Comm. Smith about the ISCOTT and he's interested in attending those meetings.

Reported the death of Zareh Soghikian. Drunk driver ran stop sign at Broadway and Webster killing Zareh Soghikian and one of his passengers, Tyler Brown. Offered her condolences to their families.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Barry Taranto: Agrees that Comm. Smith is correct about the right turn sign on Octavia Blvd. It's supposed to be a six month trial so hopefully this will change soon. Feels that the Taxi Commission was not proactive on the golf tournament. We had a meeting with the golf tournament people who gave us their contact numbers but there wasn't proper follow up and information wasn't distributed in a timely manner. Hopes to add customer service component to the taxi schools as well as the geography component. Applauds the Taxi Commission staff on their prompt reaction on the media publicity and getting a letter quickly to the Board of Supervisors on the meter increase. He met with people at the meter shop and hopes in the future we'll see a faster turn around on painting and new signs at existing cab stands. Maybe have an opening ceremony for the Castro Street sign.
• Comm. McGuire: Commented on the death of cab driver, Zareh Soghikian. He was always upbeat and had such grace and style. I admire that he always maintained his composure no matter how angry the Commission meeting got. She will really miss him.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT

• Ruach Graffis: Presented picture of Zareh and states how he was at a UTW victory party for one of the ballot propositions that they were fighting. Zareh was always in the center of the fight. States how we all hear about the many people killed in the earthquake in Pakistan and hundreds killed in Guatemala. In the face of that, two people getting killed in a taxicab in San Francisco sounds like a minor thing but its not. Zareh was a member of the UTW and was on our E-Board for 10 yrs. He was a fighter who spent 20 years driving a cab and fought for dignity and respect on the job. He tried to get health care for drivers and remove illegal limos from the streets. Spoke to the public that was watching telling them that cabbies are their safe and sober drivers yet a drunk killed his designated driver.
• John Nakis from Yellow Cab: Announced a new number to call if requesting a Yellow Cab: (415) 333-3333. States this is easy for anyone to remember and hopes this will help avoid the out of town taxi issue. Also mentions that they still have the old number in service. They have new phone services also
• Barry Taranto; Comments how it was an unusual activity to have an administrative

hearing in front of a hearing officer when this is the body that hears administrative hearings. He will file a complaint with the Sunshine Ordinance task force about the Commission making comments outside of what's listed on the agenda and what was included in the reports. Concerned still about there not being anything on the agenda for Commissioner announcements and requested calendar items. He presented a dollar bill found at the scene of the crime where Zareh was killed. Feels the media did a good job covering his death and the safety concerns we deal with but feels the police were very insensitive to that and had lack of feeling towards a cab driver who was trying to do the safest thing out there. Specifically Zareh who was smart, an activist and did things that other drivers wouldn't do.

• Thomas George-Williams: Shocked at the death of Zareh. Zareh was part of our E-Board and fighting the limo issue. We planned a protest for Nov. 3rd @ 1pm, in honor of Zareh's name, starting at City Hall asking the Supervisors to give us the gas surcharge ending at the Hyatt Regency.

• Radwan Rashid: Requested an extension of service to use his cab #9067. Says that he's in the process of buying a new vehicle but needs more time.

• Carl Macmurdo: Commented on the death of Zareh and how we will all miss him. Mentioned that the cases presented tonight, Webb and Wong, are cold cases that go back to 1997, 1999, 2000. Saying that if the cases are brought up to the Commission we will clog up the Board of Appeal's calendar with old taxi cases. Feels drivers are not getting proper notifications. In Mr. Webb's case, he would've sought a variance had he known he had the right to do it. For Mr. Wong, he was held accountable for policies that didn't exist at the time. Rather than dragging up cases from five years ago, makes more sense to keep a medallion on the street to put money in the general fund to not punish the leased drivers when medallion holder has bad behavior and is suspended.

• Barry Korengold: Talked about the death of Zareh. He shared a cab for a year with him and states how Zareh was very active in the community. Asked that the people watching on TV to think twice before driving drunk or even if you're not drunk, to be more cautious.

• Mort Weinstein: States he would always carpool with Zareh Soghikian and there was a small group, all from different cab companies, that would watch out for each other. Zareh was one of those drivers that everyone looked for dignity, respect, a sense of fairness amongst passengers and drivers. Zareh was a pioneer for the Paratransit program. He cared about everyone he met and stopped and took the time to help anyone who crossed his path. He had a lust for life and had an interest in his passengers and who people were. He was a San Francisco character, a free spirit.

• Tara Housman: Sends her thoughts and prayers to the people of Pakistan and Punjabs and hopes all is ok back home. If you want to help, please call the Hidaya Foundation or the Sikh Temple in Fremont. Commented on the death of Zareh. He neither looked or acted anywhere near his 75 years. He had a brilliant mind and a good sense of humor, a gentleman of honor, an easy going man, calm, joy to talk to - a good man. He was idealistic without being naïve, politically savvy but not cynical. Very giving of his time, talents and efforts but never a patsy. He was a good man, a man of dignity and I was an honor to know him.

• Pres. Jackson: Ended the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Zareh Soghikian and Tyler Brown and hopes this message is clear to the public who's watching tonight.

7 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned meeting at 8:19pm.

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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October 25, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

10-24-05A10:56 RCVD

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes for the October 11, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

5. San Francisco Airport presentation on Automated Cashier System [INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]

6. Staff Report [INFORMATION]

7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

8. CLOSED SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
   a. Public comment on all matters pertaining to the closed session.
   b. Vote on whether to hold closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding threatened litigation relating to Veterans Taxicab Co. (SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d).) [ACTION]
   c. Conference with legal counsel in closed session. (CA Government Code §§ 54956.9(b)(1); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d)(2).) One possible case as defendant.
   d. Reconvene in open session:
      1. Possible report on action taken in closed session and the vote thereon. (CA Government Code § 54957.1(a)(3); SF Administrative Code § 67.12(b).)[ACTION]
      2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. (SF Administrative Code § 67.12(a).) [ACTION]

9. Approval of proposed settlement for Veteran Cab Company Corporate Medallion. [ACTION]
10. Municipal Police Code Section 1090 Essential Eligibility Requirement [DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]
11. Adjournment

Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
October 25, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Sila Ashera	Jacob Brettholz	Abdeladime Dakli	Poopak Dokhanchi
Ilia Ekchenguer	Anteneh Hailu	Raphael Hakopdjanian	Mohamed Hamidi
William Hue	Surinder Kumar	Sirak Kuwa	Raef Makhlouf
Mohamaed Mandour	Hany Mohamed	Farhad Moshkani	Andy Nguyen
Tai Nguyen	Ricardo Pereira	Karnail Pour	Kyaw Soe
Saeid Taleb	Gilson Thomazele		

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

	Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1.	Radwan M. Rashid	9067	B&W Checker to DeSoto Cab
2.	Raed A. Sweis	9007	B&W Checker to DeSoto Cab
3.	Frank Wong	1213	DeSoto Cab to Bay Cab
4.	Wing Yiu Kam	1215	Bay Cab to Union Cab

C. Commission re-hearing of Executive Director's decision in the case of:

1. John Webb, Permit # 237 [ACTION]
2. Mohammad Jabari, Permit# 55101 [ACTION]

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

A. The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the October 25, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER: RAMPED TAXICAB: NEW COLOR SCHEME:
COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Armand Moulia	*266, 267, 268*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
2. Tom Whelen	*1244*	*Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab*
3. James Richard Gillespie	*987*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab*
4. Mohamad Bathai	*1157*	*United Cab to Union Cab*

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

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Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

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Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

October 25, 2005

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
October 25, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Director Heidi Machen, Vicky Siu - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Inspector Farrell Suslow, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Lieutenant Jeannie Scholtz - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE October 11, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

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PUBLIC COMMENT

• Thomas G. Williams/UTW: He wanted to clarify that for the minutes from September 27, 2005, which were discussed at the last meeting, he was not speaking as an individual, he was speaking for UTW, United Taxicab Workers.
• Pres. Jackson: Stated that they are only approving the minutes for the October 11, 2005 meeting.
• TG Williams: Stated that the September 27, 2005 minutes were discussed at the October 11, 2005 meeting. Clarified that he spoke for the UTW, it was not his personal opinion and also it was missing in the minutes that he called the hotel the dirty dozen.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger Vehicle). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

4B Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B (Color Scheme Change). Vice President Breslin seconded the motion.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Barry Taranto: He wanted to point out that there should at least be a letter stating officially that Mr. Wong is going to be single shifting. Therefore, the Commission has repercussion if he should decide to hire a driver and he doesn't have worker's compensation. I don't see a letter on file. Just saying it is not enough and thinks the Commission should have something in writing.
• Comm. Comm. McGuire: Asked if there was an agreement that they were supposed to have something signed by a notary or a waiver?
• Heidi Machen, Executive Director: States she was not aware that it was a requirement to have a notary. The City Attorney is saying that there is no such requirement, however, what we have been doing is requesting that medallion holders are writing it on their applications which are included in your packets.
• Comm. Comm. Smith: He thinks that the Taxi Detail has waiver for this; maybe they should have one?
• H. Machen, ED: Mentions that a representative from the Taxi Detail said they don't have a waiver.
• Comm. Comm. Smith: States that we should have a waiver or something similar to hold the drivers to that.
• Pres. Jackson: Comments that we cannot do this tonight, we would need to put this on an agenda and notice the public.
• Comm. Comm. McGuire: Added that making false or misleading statements to the Taxi Commission is grounds for revocation of the medallion. If the driver requests a color scheme change and states that they're single shifting and doesn't formally inform the Taxi Commission or Taxi Detail otherwise then that's being false and misleading.
• Pres. Jackson: Asked the City Attorney if Commissioner McGuire's statement is correct.
• Tom Owen, City Attorney: Yes, that is correct. If you make misrepresentations or fail to inform the Commission of changes you can be sanctioned.
• Comm. Comm. Smith: Motioned to approve item 4B.
• Comm. Vice Pres. Breslin: Seconded.

Approved Color Scheme Changes:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Radwan M. Rashid	9067	B&W Checker to DeSoto Cab
2. Raed A. Sweis	9007	B&W Checker to DeSoto Cab
3. Frank Wong	1213	DeSoto Cab to Bay Cab

4. Wing Yiu Kam 1215 Bay Cab to Union Cab

4C1 Commissioner Smith motioned to admonish Mr. Webb's actions from 6 years ago and fine him $200.00 4C1 (Rehearing of Executive Director's decision in the case of John Webb, Permit #237). Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES:
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

• Inspector Farrell Suslow: Gave a brief summary of the case.
• John Webb: Presented his case. His career in the taxi industry commenced in San Francisco in 1978. He would appreciate doing community service in place of fines or the 1 month recommended by the Taxi Detail. States that if you check his records, you will see that this is the first time he's ever been considered for disciplinary action. His driving record is squeaky clean. No one has ever been injured or dissatisfied with his driving skills. He loves driving in San Francisco and feels it's an honor to be an associate owner with DeSoto Cab Company. He promises to not drive a taxi cab when unfit for duty and risk his passenger's lives. He does not drink alcohol or take drugs and can prove it. He lives pay check to pay check as everyone else in the U.S. and has experienced the loss of income like everyone else due to increase in gas prices. Clarified what community service entailed. It is an 8 hour day and is verifiable by a supervisor on location. A supervisor will sign off on the hours worked and that will be turned into coordinator at the pre trial diversion project who can also turn it into the Commission or Executive Director. Also wanted to mention that he postponed jury duty summons and they accepted it that he will have to do it on December 30, 2005.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Barry Taranto: States no one here recommends that Mr. Webb gets revoked which would suggest that he isn't a great driver. However, says that if you look at the handout prepared by Heidi Machen, nothing in ordinance allows for community service. He doesn't know why the Taxi Detail or Hearing Officer suggested community service. It doesn't pay money as you know, if he works community service and does 172 hours, it's not going to be enough to cover the fact that other drivers had to pay for his lease fee while he was not driving. The medallion is still out there operating. Unless you can get a company to vouch that the medallion and cab was not out there. It's important to levy a fine or disciplinary action that is equal to what the Commission and the Board of Supervisors decided previously and not create precedent on something not discussed before.
• Carl Macmurdo: At the last meeting, he stated there were 200 cold cases going back many years. He was corrected, there are only 30. States that for any such cases to go before the Board of Appeals reflects badly on the Commission and even two Commissioners asked why we were talking about cases from 1997/1998. States that since Mr. Webb has worked full time for five years and he has volunteered for service work, he thinks the Commission has plenty of cases to go forward and the proper thing to do is give Mr. Webb a reprimand and let him go.
• Jim Gillespie: Stated that many times we question a person's integrity. He personally watched John Webb drive year after year and he didn't realize that he wasn't meeting his requirement because I saw him everyday. Mentions that there were circumstances to go along with that and now he's driven in compliance for the past 5 years and questions that fact that the we are pulling cases out and reviewing driving requirements from 5-6 years ago. Would like to see things reviewed in a timelier basis. Mr. Webb is a stand up person, hard worker and is doing good job. He

doesn't want to see us come down to hard 5-6 years later. He agrees with Carl that there was a violation that needs to be noticed but is not sure if the punishment fits crime at this point.
• Comm. Comm. Smith: During the change from Geary to Selby, Mr. Webb mentioned that his cab was down and it was tough getting out there. Could that have been cause of this?
• J. Gillespie: Yes, there were cab restraints at that time. We were short of getting new cars to drivers so if they had for example blown engine in this case, we tried to provide them with something else to drive but that was out of our control for a while. There were some difficulties for a year getting cars on a regular basis.
• Comm. Gillespie: Agrees this isn't the most timely case. He wanted to re-hear the case and states it was random how Mr. Webb had requested to do community service and Mr. Epstein suggested doing it. Says he's not against that but maybe we could look into it for the future and set up standards and guidelines. Agreed that Mr. Webb has gone out of his way to be a full time cab driver. If people want to do the two week suspension or reprimand, he supports either one.
• Comm. Comm. McGuire: Asked if the Executive Director had a recommendation for the amount of fines.
• Heidi Machen, Executive Director: States that she had her staff do some calculations. Tom Owen looked up if we could do administrative fines in lieu of a suspension. Fines are allowed up to the amount that a permit holder collected in lease fees during the time they were in violation. John Webb collected $1700/month during the years he was not driving. Gave example of how 172 un-drive hours can be translated into two formulas. If you take 600 shift hours/month and assume 10 hour shifts, divide 172 hours by 600 x 1700 and resulting fine is $487.33. Second formula: If you assumed a minimum shift of 4 hours, the required driving shift under Prop K, 172 hours is 43 shifts, 1 month is 60 shifts. Divide 43 by 60 x 1700 and resulting fine, $1218.33.
• Comm. McGuire: Also agreed she's not against community service but agrees with Paul that there aren't any guidelines. States we should look into it in the future because we don't have guidelines and it may not be a good idea now.
• Comm. Smith: Comments that we are all in favor of administrative fees but in Mr. Webb's case, we heard from Jim Gillespie that the move from Geary St. to Selby St. was tough. Their finances were down, he was working in other vehicles and they weren't counted as his required shifts. He had been sick and nothing was available in ADA of any kind at that time. It's well documented that he has been a stellar driver and has been for the past 5 years. States this hearing is un-timely and suggest they should just give a slap on the hand and send him home. Feels in the stress of all this, he's paid more than he has to.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: States that she agrees with everyone that Mr. Webb is a great driver and belongs on the streets. Feels they should look at it proportionately and see the fact that he has been a driver for 20 years who has two reasons why he didn't meet the drive requirements for one fraction of the time he drove. He has five good years after and 20 good years before the incident. This is not a case where he was faking waybills. Thinks that we shouldn't just have him walk away but doesn't believe in a fine since times are tough for the drivers. Doesn't believe in a suspension but does believe in probation to say 'yes' we're watching this. Also believes in community service. Even though there aren't rules set, there's an opportunity to have someone give back to the community.
• Pres. Jackson: He agrees with everyone. States that unfortunately we need to have it as an agenda item, discuss it and take public testimony and not set a precedent. Feels we should calendar and discuss community service at the most immediate date possible. In Mr. Webb's case, he's been excellent driver for 5 years, why waste our time putting a good driver on probation? Motioned to admonish Mr. Webb and have him pay fine of $200 and call it a day.
• Comm. Smith: Seconded motion.
• Comm. McGuire: Stated that she wants to go with a higher fine. He's going to be able to drive and collect a lease fee of $1800/month from the medallion and feels

$200 is nothing. Asks again why this is even being discussed so late?
• Pres. Jackson: States that it's inappropriate but its here.
• H. Machen, ED: Clarified that they will need 5 votes. When you're doing a re-hearing you need 2/3 majority or 5 commissioner votes.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Asked what will happen if we can't agree on this hearing, what is the default?
• Tom Owen, City Attorney: The default is the Executive Director's decision stands.
• H. Machen, ED: Restates that her recommendation was172 hours of community service.
• Comm. Gillespie: States that we all agree that a minimum fine is needed so we need a vote.
• H. Machen, ED: Clarifies that if this motion fails, the Commissioners can make another motion that requires 2/3 majority vote. In other words, you can vote against this motion and make another motion and ask all colleagues to vote for a different motion.
• Comm. McGuire: Does not feel she should be made to vote on something because two commissioners are not here.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Asked Comm. McGuire to go through the reasons of why she feels strongly that somebody who has been driving consistently and proven himself needs to pay so much. Is it because 5 years ago he made this money and it's now spent?
• Comm. McGuire: States that $200 can be made in one Friday night. Feels that this isn't a fine.
• Comm. Gillespie: Comments that there's no evidence of falsification.
• H. Machen, ED: Asked for someone to restate the motion.
• Pres. Jackson: Restates that the motion was to admonish Mr. Webb for his behavior 6 years ago and fine him $200.00.
• H. Machen, ED: Roll call. Motion passes 5-0.

4C2 Commissioner McGuire motions to revoke the A-Card 4C2 (Re-hearing of Executive Director's decision in the case of Mohammad Jabari, Permit# 55101). Commissioner Gillespie seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES:
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

• Heidi Machen, Executive Director: States that Mr. Jabari was noticed and has right to be here but doesn't have to be present.
• Inspector Suslow: Gave a brief summary of Mr. Jabari's case.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• John Nakis, Yellow Cab: Wanted to mention that he hopes some day this would stop. There are illegal cabs and limos and this is an opportunity to fine this person. He presented the state bill 2592 Mark Lenos Legislation.
• Barry Taranto: States that being a San Francisco cab driver, Mr. Jabari knew that it was illegal to drive an out of town cab in San Francisco. He stated that he was leaving San Francisco but he was going northbound but should have been going southbound. It was deliberate that he was trying to pick up passenger in San Francisco in an out of town cab. He doesn't know why Taxi Detail doesn't pick up more out of town cabs. Feels that the Taxi Commission needs to send a message that they care so that the Taxi Detail feels encouraged to continue to do this work. If you don't revoke the permit tonight, you're telling the Taxi Detail to find another job because you're telling them we don't want you to do this work. Asks that the Commission please make it stick tonight.
• Peter Witt: States that he's grateful to this enforcement, any enforcement is an

improvement. But he believes this isn't even a drop in the bucket compared to what goes on daily in the downtown and Fisherman's Wharf areas. He's referring to limos not out of town taxis and there should be priority. He has a report he made to the PUC which to '97. If any enforcement is to be made, he feels we should go to area where the concentration of illegal transportation takes place more often.
• Thomas G. Williams: He's glad we caught one of these guys, hope to catch another twenty tonight. States that the special thing about Mr. Jabari is that he has a San Francisco A-card and he knows exactly what he's doing. Pacifica only regulates what is going on inside Pacifica and they don't care what is going on outside of Pacifica. Said he talked to their Town Hall officials and said they may do something about this. Feels Mr. Jabari should never drive again in San Francisco and we should take his A-card and keep it.
• Comm. Smith: Said that many times come off Geneva/Mission and next six cabs are always out of towners. Pacifica Cab# 55101 is always in the Mission. Seeing that he's an A-card holder in San Francisco, he knows the rules and regulations of our industry. States Mr. Jabari was also fired from San Francisco Yellow. He'd like to take his A-card away and let him work Pacifica Yellow Cab.
• Comm. McGuire: Agrees with Comm. Smith. Feels two weeks isn't a punishment because he's not even driving in San Francisco. Even if we revoke the A-card, he's still eligible to reapply in a year but he would have to go take the classes again. Made a motion to revoke the A-Card.
• Comm. Gillespie: He wishes Mr. Jabari was here tonight. He believes Mr. Jabari made a false statement to the Commission and Police. He said he had a fare from Pacifica into San Francisco and he went only a half block when he picked up Officer Nevins. Officer Nevins said he first saw him driving around near Mission and Geneva and he pulled in front of him, pulled over and had a lot of space to get in the position to flag him down. States that not only did Mr. Jabari do it, he lied to us. If he admitted that he lied, I would have forgiven. But he lied to us so I second the motion to revoke.
• Pres. Jackson: Clarified that this does take 5 votes.
• H. Machen, ED: Took roll call vote. Motion passes 5-0

5 SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT PRESENTATION ON AUTOMATED CASHIER SYSTEM

• Alice Sgourakis/Automated Communication Mgr., SF Airport: Explained their objective: to replace existing cash collection of trip fees with smart card based automated collection system. It will have several components: A smart card will be issued to each driver and is non-transferable. It will have a chip on card that store the monetary value. They will have readers at garage entries, garage payment booths, checkout booths and International terminal. They will have value machines located in the Domestic Garage, to add value to smart cards, which will accept cash, credit cards and debit cards. They are similar to the machines at Cal-Train and BART. States that they will also continue using the AVI Transponder system. All cabs have AVI transponders already which will be used to verify CNG taxis and monitor taxi compliance with the system. States that the basic operation remains same. They'll still have the staging lots and entry points. They will have readers at the entries. Now they have two taxi lanes and they will have readers on each lane. Explained that drivers will go back and waive card and the system records the time they enter garage and the gate will open. As they enter the staging area, the card doesn't need value on it but when get to staging lot, they can use add value machine to add value to the card to exit the lot. The machines will have a display so they can waive the card in front and it will display the remaining value of the card and give a receipt. As they go through the system, there will be readers on 3 main lanes to exit the garages. The readers will check for CNG cars. It will calculate what the trip fee will be so it will calculate the fee based on whether it's a short, second short, a regular trip or a CNG vehicle with an incentive trip and the amount will be deducted as they exit and the time is recorded. The domestic and international terminals will both have exit readers. Also there will be a reader at lower first level for cabs who don't want to go

through system and can go out without paying as long as they leave within 7 minutes. There will be a customer service center which will provide phone assistance 7am to 9pm and you could report lost/stolen cards. The staff will reissue cards. States that they are now in the procurement process and hopes to get it started in November. The construction will start in February 2006. Installation is scheduled for July 2006. Before they finally install the system, they will have driver training. They will also keep 3 part taxi ticket system to control the shorts and make sure that the system keeps operating. Eventually they will get a hand held reader that dispatchers can use to read smart cards to eliminate the ticket system entirely which will be the second stage of the process.

• Comm. Smith: Asked who's putting the system up?
• A. Sgourakis: The company is called ERG. They are in the process of implementing the Translink system here in the Bay Area. They're in process of doing that, as their system gets fully in place, we can piggy back on their system and drivers can add value at other locations besides the airport.
• Comm. McGuire: Asked where drivers would get a smart card?
• A. Sgourakis: States they will facilitate that at the airport and they will be issued by the contractor.
• Vicki Sundstrom/Project Manager, SF Airport: States that they planned to have the cards at airport in May to have the cards at the airports. Someone will be at the lot helping the drivers fill out the form and give the cards for the initial period. They want drivers to register the card so if they loose it, they can call it in to get it replaced and not lose the value on the card. Otherwise they won't regain the value on it.
• Comm. McGuire: Asked how would drivers get a smart card if they don't go to the airport?
• V. Sundstrom: Stated that they have to work out a procedure to prove that the driver is a San Francisco driver first. Then they can mail in the form or we could mail the form and they'll mail you the card. This way, you don't have to go to airport to get it.
• Comm. McGuire: Asks if there will be any cost savings for the airport?
• A. Sgourakis: States that right now there are 3 cashiers so once they get automated, it will eliminate their job. We won't let them go but they will be relocated. The new system will require a lot of staff time so there will be different kind of work for them.
• Comm. McGuire: Will there be any reduced fees for drivers?
• A. Sgourakis: The fees are not reduced but possibly no more increased fees. ERG is a worldwide company. They've implemented systems in Hong Kong, Australia, Seattle, and Las Vegas. They are working with NTC on this transit project.
• Comm. McGuire: Will all cabs have to have a transponder?
• A. Sgourakis: States that they should already have them now. For this system, the main reason for the transponder is to identify the CNG cabs and make sure that the CNG cars still get their incentives. Through the AVI system we can identify the CNG cars.
• Comm. McGuire: How will this affect the busy time? Will it alleviate some of the back up?
• A. Sgourakis: It should expedite the system.
• V. Sundstrom: Verified that drivers and medallion holders will each be issued a smart card.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Barry Taranto: Thanked Alice and Vicki. He'd wanted a similar system for a long time and states the cashier's sometimes took their time or were under staffed. They resolved those issues 99% of the time, however, there is still a lot of human error. He wishes there was more input from those who are familiar with this system before they start implementing this system. The card may be smart but many driver don't speak English and a lot of these people work at the airport because it's easier to work there

than it is to work the city streets. Feels there should be a learning curve for the first 6 months. He is also concerned about the clocks being synchronized. Also asked if the managers will know how to fix the meters if they break down? States that this will sound like a complicated system to those who are not technically advanced.
• Robert Cesarin: Suggests airport go back to drawing board. Asks what happens if it takes more than 7 minutes to get from the toll gate back to the booth? States when lots are full, cabs back up. Are you going to charge us for leaving the airport? The best that you can do so far is have a sign on upstairs that says 'taxis needed' that is usually left on until we ask you to switch it off. Next problem is short problem. We'll have no printed verification of what time we left, when we returned, whether it was a short or not. That is not acceptable. Let's scratch the short system then and not allow drivers to do shorts. Next system is completely absurd, how are we going to get these cards? I'm on vacation when you're giving these cards? That's me.
• Thomas G. Williams: Feels sorry for union workers/cashiers are very nice people. Questioned about the 7 minutes. He is used to parking for 2 hours and then he'd leave because it was taking too long but now with the 7 minutes, it will be a raise in the fees. CNG free trips I can use when I want and at certain time frames. How does the machine know when I want to use it? Is there a minimum deposit? So I can deposit $4 if I don't have more? If I lose my card do I wait 4 days later until I can use the airport again? Also sees a way to trick the system for shorts like a card exchange outside of the airport. Finally, will we get a receipt for the money we paid? I don't think its right to imply this system because even the clocks don't work right.
• Taso Zagrafos: He wants to commend airport on this program. One of them called Parks which automates the entire parking facility. One of the problems is getting a smart card to every driver. One of the things Treasurer Cisneros was interested in was having a bar code/magnetic strip on back so it can eventually be an A-card/smart card. So every driver will for sure have a smart card with their A-card. This might solve the issue there. Paratransit contract provided an incentive to deploy a smart card and debit card capability to get onto BART and other public transit means. Some of these issues will get resolved I'm sure.
• Charles Rathbone: Wanted to point out that the feature of smart card, there's always unredeemed value. Asks what happens to that money? Over time, it will accumulate to a lot of money. Who will end up possessing that money? I have plenty of cards so if we can combine it with the A-card, it will be helpful.
• George Lansing: States when they enter the cab lot they're issued a ticket and the print is so small and ink is not visible. Ticket has 2 measurements: the military clock and am/pm. Why can't we have uniform system. Orange ticket, you go through overflow lot, main lot and when you get in, they only issue tickets for those in main lot. And short line are exempt…they're going up on 2nd level to International. Most flights are from Third World Countries and they have relatives picking them up so only 2-3 fares. Why are people in short exempt from tickets? And why is it that after waiting, that people in short line, two go out while one in main lot go out?
• Comm. McGuire: Asked about the unused money, what will happen to that? Also likes idea of combining the A-card with the smart card.
• A. Sgourakis: States they made notes of all the comments and will get the issues cleared up.

6 STAFF REPORT

• Heidi Machen, ED: Gave an update on the meetings she attended and correspondences received and sent.

Announced company's w/ramp vans which are also posted on the website. Comm. Smith requested to calendar a discussion on who is following worker's comp rules. Especially asking whether a long-term lease holder is required to have worker's comp. for persons driving his medallion. He announced that the taxi sign at the Holiday Inn on 5th St. has been replaced. Comm. Gillespie requested a hearing on alternative sentencing such as Project 20 and President Jackson also echoed the same request.

Comm. McGuire requested a discussion and possible action on taxicab companies to carry insured motorist coverage. President Jackson requested a reminder on the ban of cell phone use while driving a cab. This rule does not apply to drivers using cell phones in an emergency.

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Peter Witt: Yellow Cab driver for 17 yrs., native San Franciscan. Thanks Heidi for her attention on limos. Hopes his reports on illegal limos will be passed to new unit of enforcement agencies as it is current information. And he plans on updating it next year. Wants to mention, so police would have idea what's going on, its obvious to me when driver goes by Beach Blanket Babylon, there are 6 limos parked there illegally. If police goes there, they'll catch six limousines.
• Barry Taranto: Appreciates Heidi's report. Wants to mention that there was a meeting on October 13th regarding debit card program and hopes you get the material on what's going on with that and if you have any questions to have another hearing. Hopes to set up a steering committee as part of that program. Said it's important to have cab driver representative-people who are involved with the paratransit-to get input from the drivers who will be using the cards. States he saw the sign up on 5th St. However where are the tow away signs? We spent lots of money. But they're not putting up tow away signs, they're putting up white signs. He had to call DPT on that location. Says every driver should call 553-1631 to report a violation of that site. Need to address the uninsured motorist issue. Drivers get injured, can't work and no insurance to cover them.
• Ruach Graffis: Heidi mentioned the Zareh candle light vigil. Said UTW has set up a Zareh Soghikian and Tyler Brown Memorial Fund. Some money will go to the Armenian family that Zareh was helping support during the earthquake. Money will also go to the Banda Aceh Village that Tyler had gone back to help them put their shrimp fishing business back into operation. And part of the money will go to cab drivers. States that anyone can send money to 2940 16th St., Room 305, Attn: Tyler and Zareh Memorial Fund.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Asked if this will be set up as non profit fund with its own account?
• R. Graffis: States that it's already set up with a separate bank account.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT

• Zafer Iyik: States that he had been driving a cab since this summer and isn't sure if anyone else has complained about the system. City Hall has all the medallions and if someone wants to operate a medallion, you need to wait and wait. They should join the companies to operate all medallions. He's looking for a chance to operate a medallion. Asked if this chance exists or not. He wants to lease one from the city not from the companies. He doesn't like working for a cab company because they take money out of his check for using the medallion. He doesn't think the companies are serving the public, they're just hiring a lot of people.
• Spanky Woods: States that his name is Julian Edward Woods but prefers to be called Spanky. Wants to talk about cab drivers who don't pay Federal income taxes. Believes drivers would never have a union until all drivers pay State and Federal income taxes. Continues saying that the majority of drivers don't pay income taxes at the end of the year. If a driver doesn't file, then the IRS doesn't find out about it. But once they file, it takes different toll. Ten years ago, he had an idea that if a cab driver got an A-card renewed, he had to show proof that he filed taxes which meant all drivers had to pay income taxes an in the long run, it would cause them to have a union. He donated a letter that he's had for 10 years, it's dated October 26, 2995, which explains why his idea won't work.
• Thomas G. Williams: Reports that today they started getting ready for the protest against unfair and unjust limousine taxes and hotel doormen. The protest will be on

November 3, 2005 at 1pm to ask City Hall to give us gas surcharge, to imply the limo bill and give us a law against corrupt doormen. Around 1:30pm the drivers will be picked up and we will continue to circle some of the dirty dozen hotels. At 2:30pm, we will arrive at the Hyatt Regency, who is the #1 of the dirty dozen hotels, and hold a standing protest. He asked every driver and everyone else in the taxi industry to show up at this protest.

• Barry Taranto: Showed us an announcement which states affective November 1, 2005 there will be new CNG fueling hours on the 19th and Treat station. They are eliminating fueling at night. Says PG&E is punishing everybody rather than the ones who are violating the rights to pick up there. He appreciates if the Commission gets involved and mediates and rectifies the situation by punishing those who are doing the unpleasant activities there. States that this now leaves only two stations. Says that too many people go to the First & Folsom station and the 23rd St. station is not easily accessible. This means we can't gas up at night. He feels this is preventing drivers from serving public particularly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Also states that we need more help with out of town cabs and the police need to be more educated, Taxi Detail cannot do it all themselves.

• Robert Cesarin: States that the proposal by the airport is very complicated and asks that it be in writing in the future. States that there will be so many areas of contention and there are going to be days when they put this in if they don't talk to drivers, there won't be any cabs at the airport. Brought up another issue: the question of solicitation in this city is absurd. Says that everyone can solicit accept the cab drivers. Said he went to England a month ago and was standing waiting for a shuttle and he was solicited so many times. He was in the airport at 1am and was solicited in the terminal by three limos and no one cares. States that we have to know what the law is and it's not clear to him who is allowed to solicit.

• John Nakis, Yellow Cab: Has some good news. Says that San Francisco was the #1 tourist destination according to 28,000 people from the Traveler's magazine. States that with tourists, comes business but our business remained the same from 2 years ago. The main reason, we need to get our business back and away from those illegal limos. States that we have a law and the Commission can help us with that law to get rid of them. One way to get rid of those illegal cabs this is the number to call for a Yellow Cab, 415-333-3333.

• Carl Macmurdo: States that the DBA has sent a letter of their condolences and cash contribution to Zareh's family. Commented that Mr. Webb, who was fined $200, left happy but doesn't think we can legally apply a formula from 2005 to something that happened 5 years ago. But maybe it existed under the administrative codes some infraction amounts that allowed the $200 fine. On item 10, he states there are a couple problems-there's nothing on this proposal for this item. Thinks this was mistake. States that the way it was written on the agenda is like a run-on sentence.

• Taso Zografos: Talked about the Paratransit program. States that MUNI is in contention with the taxi industry who was promised by the contractor a multi-vendor solution. MUNI's argument is that DDS, who is now in charge of the project, never suggested that it was a multi-terminal solution. Highlighted a text that he wrote for the proposal which read that 'they will seek to design system that allows various mobile data terminals, MDT's, -multiple types of terminals, taxi meters and radio equipment to provide paratransit functionality regardless of manufacturer or supplier'. Showed several other pieces of evidence supporting this. Says he testified before the office of inspector general and they're taking significant notes on this. Says MUNI will have 3 options, force the contractor to do the right thing and support what was committed to the taxi industry, re-bid the project or loose funding completely. They also met with the paratransit community.

• Mark Gruberg: Paid tribute to Zareh Soghikian, saying that he was a friend, colleague and generous. Wants to say that the one issue Zareh was involved with was United Taxicab Worker's appeal with the Commissions decision on Welsch medallions. States that this appeal will be coming to Superior Court on November 2, 2005 at 9:30am in Department 302 at 400 McAllister. States this appeal will be pursued to it's conclusion. They were unable to carry forward their appeal on the Lazar medallion

due to financial reasons but will carry this other appeal forward. He received papers from the other side saying the appeal should be dismissed now that Zareh has died. States that if we win, it will be a great victory for cab drivers and Zareh.
• Comm. Smith: Asked if there was a deal worked out with Lazar? Settlement with the union?
• M. Gruberg: States that he's not at liberty to discuss it.
• Comm. Gillespie: Asked Mark Gruberg to clarify what this hearing will be about?
• M. Gruberg: States that this will be decision on the case. It's not a trial, it's a hearing on a petition and judge's decision will decide the matter on the papers submitted and the records submitted at the Board of Appeals. They expect a decision in the matter by November 2nd.
• Comm. Gillespie: Asked about Zareh's involvement.
• M. Gruberg: States that the appeal was taken in the name of the United Taxicab Workers and Zareh, as an individual driver who was on the permit applicant list was interested in the matter and was prejudiced by the Commission's decision. With Zareh's death, the other side is saying they don't have an individual who has an interest in this who's named in the lawsuit and UTW is not the proper party.
• Ruach Graffis: States that on Thursday, October 27th, at the Hall of Justice 850 Bryant St., Room 11 at 9am, they will have the arraignment for Kevin McGuinness. Advised that anyone is welcome to come and encourages cab drivers to come. The UTW is asking for no bail because they considers this person a high flight risk.
• Comm. McGuire: Asked if there are more items on their agenda for that day.
• R. Graffis: States that they don't know how long it will be. But hopes to show the judge how many people came and how much they are interested to see what happens.
• Comm. McGuire: Suggests that drivers wear their badge that day to represent the taxi community.
• Peter Witt: Feels that after 7 years, our driver labor representative should know our basic procedures. States the other driver representative thinks gas prices should be studied more. That same driver representative is letting MTA make the call for those prices when MUNI itself sucks up money from the taxi service. MUNI's answer to gas prices or deficits is to cut back on service and raise their fares. Wishes the driver representatives would resign. Talked about the latest customer survey. Said he will turn it in.
• Pres. Jackson: Shifted the meeting to go to item# 10-before the closed session. States that Commissioner Smith has asked for a continuance on this item. Continued item 10.

8 CLOSED SESSION ON ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Commissioner Smith motioned to go to closed session. Commissioner Kwok seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES:
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

8A Public Matters on all matter pertaining to the closed session

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Barry Taranto: States that getting the 8 medallions on January 2, 2006 is wonderful. But the return of the subsequent medallions is an unfair structure. Says when a person dies, there is only one medallion available and the other six share holders get to keep the other16 medallions. They each get $4800. Then when others pass away, then you leave three medallion holders with 10 medallions. They get $6000/month. You're making someone rich at a driver's expense. Wants a fare

distribution of the medallions because the last person is going to live 20-30 more years.
• Thomas G. Williams: States he is speaking as Thomas and for UTW. Said that the Commission should ask for the medallions back and not keep those people rich, lets get medallions back to city.
• Mark Gruberg: He asked that the Commission reject this settlement and asks them to remember who's been left out of this process. Veterans cab is involved, this is their settlement offer. Goes on to state that the Commission, as representatives of the City and the owner of the permit is represented by you-this group. The other party are the permit advocates-3000 of them. They didn't have any say in this settlement. No negotiations with them, they have no rights to participate in this. You, as Commission are only body that can uphold rights of the advocates that were left out of this process. The results are clear because of the previous decisions by the Police Commission and the Board of Appeals and if this goes through, it overrides this decision even though the Board of Appeals is superior. Even if go for proportional return, this is not it.
• Ruach Graffis: Pointed out that there are no people in this Veteran's list who are actual former drivers. They have been holding these permits since 1978 and have not been driving while people, who actually are driving, are waiting. There's only one widow and two other people in their 40's. One can expect them to live another 30-50 years. This is not proportional as Thomas said. If I was Yellow, I'd be screaming my head off.
• Peter Witt: Said that he's one of those waiting for a medallion. Asks why is this taking so long? Feels drivers have no rights here, no voice. This is a no brainer-the law is specific. Why didn't you settle this with Yellow and Luxor at the time. This was five or six years ago. They've gotten their share of money, more than they deserve. Settling this is not justified.

8B Commissioner Smith motioned to hold a closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding threatened litigation relating to Veterans Taxicab Co. Commissioner Kwok seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES:
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

8C Conference with legal council in closed session.

8D OPEN SESSION

8D1 Possible report on action taken in closed session and the vote thereon.

8D2 Commissioner Gillespie motioned to not disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. Vice President Breslin seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES:
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

9 APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT FOR VETERAN TAXICAB CO. CORPORATE MEDALLION

Commissioner Smith motions to approve the settlement. Vice President Breslin seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-1.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, Smith
NOES: McGuire
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mark Gruberg: Urges the Commission to reject the settlement.
- Peter Witt: Agrees with Mark Gruberg and urges the Commission to do what he said.
- Comm. Smith: Motions to accept settlement.
- Vice Pres. Breslin: Seconded the motion.
- Heidi Machen, ED: Roll call vote: motion passes 5-1.

10 MUNICIPAL POLICE CODE SECTION 1090 ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT [CONTINUED]

11 ADJOURNMENT
Commissioner Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kwok seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, Kwok, McGuire, Smith
NOES:
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

Adjourned meeting at 9:10pm.

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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November 8, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes for the October 25, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]

5. Department of Parking and Traffic updates [HEARING AND POSSIBLE ACTION]
   a. Taxicab stands and white zone enforcement, including discussion on taxicab stands at BART
   b. Moving one-way portion of Howard one block East to Beale, making MUNI's right turn onto Howard from Beale safer with other vehicles
   c. Planning for events and involving the taxicab industry in discussions

6. Staff Report [INFORMATION]

7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).

8. Funding an investigator position for Taxicab Commission by increasing fees on Driver Public Passenger Vehicle Permits (A-Cards) [DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]

9. Alternative sentencing as discipline for drivers and medallion holders in violation of rules [REPORT AND POSSIBLE ACTION]

10. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
    (*King Cab et al v San Francisco Taxicab Commission*, San Francisco Superior Court, No. CGC-05-441631)
    a. Public comment on all matters pertaining to the closed session.
    b. Vote on whether to hold closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding *King Cab et al v San Francisco Taxicab Commission*, San Francisco Superior Court, No. CGC-05-441631. (CA Government Code § 54956.9(a); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d) (1).) [ACTION]
    c. Conference with legal counsel in closed session regarding *King Cab et al v San Francisco Taxicab Commission*, San Francisco Superior Court, No. CGC-05-441631. (CA Government Code § 54956.9(a); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d)(1).) [DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]
    d. Reconvene in open session:
       1. Possible report on action taken in closed session and the vote thereon. (CA Government Code § 54957.1(a); SF Administrative Code § 67.12(b).)
       2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. (SF Administrative Code § 67.12(a).) [ACTION]

11. Adjournment

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CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for approval of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Ratna Acharya	Wahid Ahmadi	Dashaun Atkins-Gray	Fabiana Bartholomeu
Toufik Belabbes	Andrea Carneiro	Reginaldo Carrijo	Danny Chu
Wilkson Donascimento	Nicolau Fernandes	John G. Li	Marcelo Galhardo
Ahmad Hojjati	Anatoly Kudin	Ricky Landerth	David Leung
Celso Maningas	Carl Mariblanca	Vladimir Matusevich	Fabio Meira
Binh Nguyen	Tuan Nguyen	Mohammad Nikkhah	Mauro Pinheiro
Wesley Pinheiro	Lahbib Rharbi	Alex Riazanov	Alencar Rocha
Nabil Saad	Jagdev Singh	Belete Worku	

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for approval of Color Scheme Changes to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Armand Moulia	266, 267, 268	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
2. Tom Whelen	1244	Veterans Cab to Arrow Cab
3. James Richard Gillespie	987	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab
4. Mohamad Bathai	1157	United Cab to Union Cab

C. Removal of deceased applicant names from medallion waiting list:

Applicant Name	List#
Julia Bontempi	6-182
Jeffery Carr	6-199
Daniel Goldstein	6-235
Ray Jang	6-173

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

A. The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the November 22, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
N/A	*N/A*	*N/A*

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES:

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Vasilios Hristos Margianis	*338*	*Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op*
2. Thai Hoang Hong	*1249*	*Arrow Cab to Union Cab*

B. Removal of applicant names on medallion waiting list after notice attempts:

Applicant Name	List #	Applicant Name	List#
Yale Brettschneider	5-049	Darryl Lum	6-099
Denvas Chiu	6-025	Philip Maguire	5-369
Stauroula Fanouriakis	6-097	Larry Ng	6-121
Ching Hom	6-096	Leonardo Oliveros	6-026
Roland Hom	6-020	David Romano	6-038
Anthony Inocencio	6-168	Shih Shui	6-054
William Kirkland	6-163	David Skinner	6-024

C. KSJ Cab request to change decal logo on taxicab. Sample of logo available at Taxi Commission office and will be brought to the November 22, 2005 Commission meeting.

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

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Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities may call Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180 to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner of McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Gough Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Adele Destro, Interim Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by e-mail at sotf@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317; web site: sfgov.org/ethics.

WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, sec. 67A.1)*

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Taxicab Commission

November 8, 2005

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
November 8, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:32 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Director Heidi Machen, T. Bettencourt - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Inspector Farrell Suslow, Sergeant Vince Simpson.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE October 25, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

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AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

PUBLIC COMMENT
4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A RECOMMENDATION OF THE TAXI DETAIL FOR APPROVAL OF DRIVER PUBLIC PASSENGER VEHICLE PERMITS

Commissioner Smith moved to approve 4A (Driver Public Passenger Vehicle). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

No Public comment on 4A

4B RECOMMENDATION OF THE TAXI COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Commissioner Smith moved to approve 4B1,2,4 (Color Scheme Change). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

Commissioner Mc Guire: they said the company wants to run more cabs with this name Arrow on it and in the light of the discussion and vote we had last week regarding corporate permits, first question I had is these are not corporate permits, right?

Executive Director Heidi Machen: No, they are not.

Commissioner McGuire: Wants to know the reason for all of the changes.It seems to be ongoing, and both of the people say that theier company wants to run more cabs with this name on it.I don't understand why Veteran's Cabs are shifting to Arrow.

Dir. Machen: I imagine that it is a business decision which is more advantageous to them.

Commissioner McGuire: So it has nothing to do with the corporate permit situation?

Dir. Machen: These are individuals who are changing.

4C REMOVAL OF DECEASED APPLICANT NAMES FROM MEDALLION WAITING LIST

Commissioner Smith moved to approve 4C. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith, Breslin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

No Public Comment

Commissioner McGuire: We'll see more of these next week, and I am wondering what the procedure is. Were these people sent packets because they were next up on the medallion waiting list?

Dir. Machen: These are deceased applicants. No one is contesting this, but if they do come back from the dead then the Police Department will make them whole! They have death certificates on file for these. I will ask the police to specifically explain.

Inspector Farrell Suslow, SFPD Taxi Detail: We have medallions that have been returned for various reasons. We have been trying to process them and are going through the list to notify people who are on final notice. As you know there will be more people next time who didn't respond. In sending out the letters we uncovered

information that led us to believe that these people were deceased. We were able to verify it through our databases. We recommend that these people be removed from the list. There will be more people removed for other reasons such as not complying, not filing the application. These will come up at subsequent hearings. All of them have been duly noticed and have simply not responded and applied.

Commissioner McGuire: When you say that you have noticed them that they are the first on the list and you are notifying them that a medallion will be available?

Insp Suslow: Correct. We are going through and doing quite a few at a time. We sent out 25 more letters this morning to the next 25 eligibles by certified mail. We have quite a few in process.

Commissioner McGuire: It seems like there are medallions that have not been issued.

Insp Suslow: Correct. We are going through and making offers to those who had time waivers. They now have to either perform or get off of the list.

Commissioner McGuire: It seems like these people were notified before.

Insp Suslow: Most were, and most were on time waivers in the past.

Commissioner McGuire: If that is the only way you can do it.

Insp Suslow: Under the law we have to offer them to people in the order that they are on the list.

Commissioner McGuire: So this could take a long time?

Insp Suslow: We move ahead immediately with notifications of the next people on the list once the previous people haven't responded. We put the non-responders on the next Commission agenda.

Commissioner McGuire: What is the timeline?

Insp Suslow: 30 to 60 days. We have had some people come in and pick up packets from the last batch.

President Arthur Jackson: He is trying to clean up the list so that we can move forward.

4B3 RECOMMENDATION OF THE TAXI COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF COLOR SCHEME CHANGES

Commissioner Smith moved to approve 4B3. Commissioner Mc Guire seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, McGuire, Smith, Breslin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: Gillespie

No Public Comment

5 DEPARTMENT OF PARKING AND TRAFFIC UPDATES
Dir. Machen: Representing DPT we have James Lee and Jack Fleck.
a. Taxicab stands and white zone enforcement, including discussion on taxicab stands at BART
b. Moving one-way portion of Howard one block East to Beale, making MUNI's right turn onto Howard from Beale safer with other vehicles
c. Planning for events and involving the taxicab industry in discussions

James Lee: Our quarterly stats show that we have been aggressively enforcing the White Zones and we will continue to enforce these White Zones.

Commissioner McGuire: The new taxi stand at 18th and Castro is impossible to get into because there always seems to be a private car there.

Mr. Lee: We have a monthly enforcement log on this zone. We are removing vehicles that are in the zone.

Commissioner McGuire: Nobody knows that there is a cab stand if there are cars there.

Mr. Lee: I believe that the sign is now posted.

Commissioner McGuire: Is it a towaway?

Mr. Lee: No. The fine is $60

Commissioner Martin Smith: I got a phone call from Supervisor Bevan Dufty's office today asking about the sign. They want to know if they can get a larger sign up there. The cabs aren't using the stand at all, they are using the bus zone.

Mr. Lee: We will look into getting a bigger sign.

Commissioner Gillespie: This is good. This is almost a 10% increase. Is this coming from the hotels as a result of our interest in clearing out white zones? Who are these tickets being given to?

Mr. Lee: They are given to everyone in the white zone. Limos, unfortunately taxicabs, customers, valets, everyone, mostly in the downtown area.

Commissioner Gillespie: How about repeated violations with the limousines?

Mr. Lee: We are trying to look into the limos with PUC. PUC oversees limos.

President Jackson: Once they have a formalized agenda they will let us know?

Mr. Lee: Correct

Commissioner Patricia Breslin: I want to thank DPT for meeting with me earlier this month. We ran into the unforeseen consequence of tourists getting tickets when they were loading in front of the hotels. The small hotels don't have doormen to help. The true goal is to make sure commercial vehicles don't stage in the white zones.

Commissioner Smith: We need desperately on an emergency basis in Golden Gate Park by the new museum and the Tea Garden showing cab stands. People don't know where to get a cab out there. Can we get three spaces dedicated to taxis? (Displayed

a map of desirable locations for cab stands). It is difficult for Muni to have to pull around cabs which are legally using the bus zones.

Mr. Lee: Our traffic engineer Jack Fleck can better answer that question.

Jack Fleck, Deputy Director, DPT: You are talking about the Mission District stations?

Commissioner Smith: All of the BART stations should have dedicated cab stands.

Mr. Fleck: It isn't practical to put cab stands on Market street. Most of the Market street stations have hotels nearby. Perhaps we could put up signs directing people to the hotels?

Commissioner Smith: The Ramada at 9th and Market is on a no-parking zone for the bike lane. On the other side there is an inlet which could be made into a cab stand. Montgomery station has the Sheraton Palace. We can be inventive.

Mr. Fleck: We would be happy to work with you. Are there no cab stands at the Mission stations? Would drivers want stands there?

Commissioner Smith: Yes, Cabs already try to park near those stations. There should be a designated area there. There are lots of older people who can't get cabs.

Mr. Fleck: The only argument I have heard is about putting stands on Market street. I don't see a problem with these other suggestions. I will take this discussion as an action request.

Martin: You can take this map.

Dir. Machen: The next item is about moving the one-way portion of Howard one block East to Beale, making MUNI's right turn onto Howard from Beale safer with other vehicles, and planning for events and involving the taxicab industry in discussions.

Mr. Fleck: Heidi is a representative at Iscott, so she is involved in that process, especially as taxi issues come up. As far as the one-way portion of Howard, my first reaction to that was, as you know, the freeway comes down at Fremont and you make a left and a lot of cars do make a right on Howard. So if you made it one way, that would be pretty inconvenient for a lot of people. It would be too drastic to try to change the operation on Howard.

President Jackson: Thank you, gentlemen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barry Taranto:
My favorite topic. There are concerns among drivers about which white zones are being enforced and when. Concerned about guests getting tickets. If limos are parked at the hotels then guests can't get in. Across from the library at the Burger King, we need a taxi stand. Can the Commission office apply in writing for a stand there? We need pickup and dropoff spots at the Mission stations, but drivers will not sit there. Cab stands will be occupied by other drivers. Caltrain station stand is an example. Put a towaway sign at the Castro stand. Commission staff at Iscott meetings to give more consideration to taxi issues. Staff should work to get more taxi spaces at special events.

Mr. Gudu: Would like to have talked to the DPT representatives about enforcement. They don't enforce white zones at all. Once in a while they enforce it but they don't do it at times when it is important. Also, the turn southbound on Powell Street onto Geary is impossible. We need a better light.

Thomas George Williams: Limos still sit in the white zones. We need more enforcement, 1,000% more. We need a taxi stand at the cable car turntable in Fisherman's Wharf. Other places could use one, too, like Levi's Plaza on Battery.

Peter Witt: Traffic flow is a big problem. Seven years ago we didn't have this problem. This is a hindrance to business. Would like to see the Commission form a Traffic Committee. Taxi stands should be dispersed throughout the city. Double-parkers are a big problem, especially at Beach Blanket Babylon. There is a plethora of them. Limousines are in great numbers, operating illegally. Commission should work with PUC on the limo problem. Cutouts can be used as taxi stands.

Nick Miller: White zone enforcement is nonexistent. Limos steal the taxi stands so I have to park in the white zones. Lots of drivers are frustrated, Unity among drivers is growing.

Commissioner Breslin: Many speakers would like to have had the DPT representatives stay for this discussion. Can we ask them to watch the video of this meeting, or send the minutes to them.

6 Staff Report [Information Item]
Heidi Machen, Executive Director: I would like to bring the Commission up to date on significant things that have happened in the last couple of weeks.

• On October 27, staff attended the ISCOTT meeting.
• On November 1, the office of Taxicab Commission submitted our efficiency plan to the Board of Supervisors as required by law. We are now in compliance.
• On November 2, I attended the hearing on Octavia Blvd at the Board of Supervisor's Landuse Committee, Rm 263, 1 pm. Dept of Parking and Traffic presented and discussed, among other things, the No Right Turn onto the freeway at Octavia when motorists are traveling East along Market Street
• On November 2, the Superior Ct. granted a stay of decision on the revocation of Joseph Breall's medallion until the case is heard at the Superior Court level
• Also on November 2, Judge Quidachay heard arguments in the UTW's lawsuit challenging the Taxi Commission and Board of Appeals decisions on the Georgette Welch permits.
• Finally, the Taxicab Commission prevailed on three separate cases at the Board of Appeals last Wednesday night. Specifically, the Board upheld the Commissions decisions in the revocations of medallions held by Jamie Yuen and Diane Cohen (both for not meeting the full-time driving requirement) and upheld the 60 day suspension of driver Boris Shamis's A-card for refusal to convey at the airport. I presented on behalf of the Commission along with Sgt. Simpson and Inspector Suslow of Taxi Detail. City Attorney Tom Owen also attended as back-up.
• The Compressed Natural Gas filling station at 19th and Treat Streets is enforcing its 6 pm closing
• On Friday, November 4, met with Cindy Shamban from Dept of Parking and Traffic to discuss annual events of which the taxi industry should be aware.
• The Taxicab Commission has begun receiving surveys on whether San Francisco has adequate taxi service The Controller's Office will be tallying the responses and performing some analysis that may be helpful for the upcoming Public Convenience and Necessity Hearing during the first quarter of 2006.
• The Commission will be holding its annual Public and Taxi Driver Safety Hearing on Thursday, December 1, 10 am at City Hall, Room 408.

• As of today, all Taxi Companies are 100% compliant with their financial reporting requirement.
• Finally, I'd like to ask the SFPD's Taxi Detail, Sgt. Vince Simpson, to comment on a couple of items from the PD's perspective.
1. Paratransit Coordinating and Operations meeting, Wed, Nov 2
2. Monster Park taxi pickups

Sergeant Vince Simpson: I attended a sub-committee Ramp Taxi meeting. The ramp taxi rules requires that ramp drivers pick up three wheelchair fares per shift, when available. Paratransit brokers office reports an increase in compliance overall. We will follow up on the info from later months as it becomes available. There aren't enough SF cabs arriving to service the 49er's fans. There have been a couple of arrests of out-of-town cabs recently. Police Department gets very little response when they call the cab dispatchers for cabs. Asks that drivers attempt to come out to Monster Park, especially at the next couple of home games. Cabs can reach the game from Ingerson St, Third St is not as crowded.

Commissioner Smith: Opera house calls an hour before the opera ends to request 30 or 40 cabs. Maybe Monster Park could do that. If there is a problem getting in, if you come off of Jamestown and make the left onto Third Street, then you head straight down Ingerson you have a free lane right into Gate D. Dispatch systems can announce that there are fares, and that they are all good fares.

Simpson: There is an officer that repeatedly calls dispatchers to get cabs. If SF cabs can get out there, we will be able to eliminate the out-of-town cabs and limos illegally picking up the fans.

Commissioner Kwok: When do you expect the next report from the Paratransit broker?

Simpson: We get the May through August report soon, and we will study it carefully for admonishments and citations.

Commissioner Kwok: Please keep a close eye on the PM shifts. It is more difficult to get through in the evening.

Dir. Machen: To complete the staff report, Commissioner Mc Guire has requested that we calendar a taxicab emergency plan in the event of natural disaster or catastrophic event. Perhaps we should fold this into the upcoming Safety Hearing?
Particular attention should be devoted to:
• Transportation of senior and disabled persons during a citywide emergency.
• Dispatch Systems - Backup plans for voice and computer systems.
• Smart cards and debit cards - How will drivers receive payment for services, and how will they gain access to SFO?
• Industry awareness of the existing emergency plan at SFO regarding color-coded alerts.
Guest speakers could be invited from the following:
• Office of Emergency Services
• SFO - Landside Operations and Security
• Paratransit coordinating Council
• Ramp Taxi Working Group

Commissioner Smith would like to calendar:
• An item to discuss who is driving the Ramp Taxis after the medallion holder receives the medallion. Are these drivers ramp-certified? Do they have workers compensation?
• Would like to discuss the high prices that companies are paying to lease medallions. That could roll into a discussion of a lease cap.
• Request to calendar a discussion on the settlement of the court case between Luxor

and the UTW.
• A request from the Commission to the Detail on how many medallions they are holding pending re-issuance.
Concludes staff report.

Public Comment
Barry Taranto: Appreciates Sgt Simpson's comments. Two arrests is not enough. Went out to the Park at 5:15 but no fares were there. Ingerson was open to private vehicles too soon. Should require the dispatchers to announce games. Concerned that Commission is more concerned with bicycles than Taxis. Commission should write a letter to Bevan Dufty supporting the idea of allowing right turns onto the freeway at Market and Octavia. We need access to the CNG facility at 19th and Treat.

Carl McMurdo: Re Board of Appeals cases of revocations. Applauds choice of prosecutions of people who were defrauding the system. Technical mistakes might have been made about the Commission's ADA policy. Arnold Chin at Board of Appeals said that he would not uphold Commission penalties unless there was a clear policy listing penalties for first, second, and third violations. This Commission has a tendency to go straight from first to third violation by calling multiple violations the second and the third.

President Jackson: This template has not existed in the past?

Mr. Mc Murdo: Arnold Chin told Naomi Little that he couldn't uphold the Commission if there weren't written rules. The philosophy behind the progressive penalties was based on the USDA models. Now people receive a reprimand and then five years later they are revoked for multiple intervening years of violations.

Witt: Two minutes is absurd. I have a lot to say on a lot of items. I want to talk about nine or ten items. This was jammed in here just so that I couldn't say it. There are not enough people to make that a legitimate restriction. Let's talk data. Five or ten % is not a good enough response. Where are you testing this? Mary McGuire's emergency plan would take more than two minutes. I see no progress here. [The data that I've collected and submitted to this Commission, contains many clear incontrovertible patterns. And your "consistent failure" To recognize the facts and respond prudently is degrading and demoralizes the public and is unacceptable in a democracy. The time you waste is not your time to waste (commissioners). We're not living in 1998 or are your??]

Mr. Gudu: I won't take two minutes. Recently I changed companies. If call was not placed through dispatch system, it is not credited to my account. I have to ask for their personal information. Ramp drivers are discouraged from picking up on the street if they are not getting credit for the wheelchair fares.

Commissioner Smith: Can't you mark those fares on your waybills as wheelchair fares?

Mr. Gudu: To prevevt fraud, I have to ask the person for personal information. I wish there was another way.

Commissioner Smith: If we had the debit cards, then this wouldn't be a problem.

President Jackson: Do you get credit when you pick me up when I am using my cane?

Mr. Gudu: No

President Jackson: We need to work on this.

Commissioner Kwok: If the customer agreed to call the dispatcher, would that count? It would be more work.

Mr. Gudu: Yes, it would count.

President Jackson: How many wheelchair flags do you get?

Mr. Gudu: It varies a lot, but it is rare.

Ruach Graffis: If I was a woman in a wheelchair, I would be very unhappy to have my driver ask for my name, address, and phone number. Monster Park is not set up for people to find cabs. If I walk out of Gate C I have to walk a half-mile to Gate D

Nick Miller: I just found out about the Driver's Digest. Please publicize it better. Mention it at drivers schools. Get it to dispatchers and include the schedule of games.

Robert Cesana: London congestion surcharge is high to keep cars out of the center of London. Taxis and buses can't move freely in the City. Monster Park access is too difficult. It is not cost-effective to go to the Park. Improve traffic flow to improve taxi service.

Mark Gruberg: Disagrees with McMurdo's remarks about penalties. It is not geared so that first violation can't be more than lightly punished.

Tom Owen, City Attorney: Our Executive Director did an excellent job of presenting at the Board of Appeals. The PD witnesses were very helpful. Mark Gruberg gave cogent testimony.

President Jackson: It is a driver's choice to go to Monster Park. It is important to facilitate access to the Park for taxis if we are going to get them to go back once or twice.

Commissioner Smith: Coming out of the Park, come down Ingerson, right on Ingalls, take La Salle through the Produce Market to get to Highway 101. Requests that we end this meeting in honor of Herman Trinidad who died recently and will be sorely missed.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT
Dave Schneider: Centralized independent GPS dispatch would let lots more cabs know about fares at Monster Park. Deep Richmond and Sunset would get rides. 23rd and Potrero has no light at the southeast corner.

Barry Taranto: Problems with Super Shuttle sitting at hotels. Halloween at the Castro was very difficult. Couldn't get in and out. Police tell us to go away. Park and Rec should change rules about picking up in Golden Gate Park. Rich Street is being switched to one way in the opposite direction.

Commissioner Smith: Where are the Super Shuttles lining up?

Taranto: At the Marriott on Fourth Street and at other hotels.

Commissioner Smith : We should get a letter out on this.

Commissioner Breslin: How do you know that they don't have appointments?

Taranto: I have it on the good word of other drivers.

Robert Cesana: Took a SuperShuttle to the airport after it solicited him, to see what would happen. The ADA notice on the website says that it is "proposed". It should be updated.

City Attorney, Tom Owen: The proposal has been formally adopted. We should clean up the website, but the policy has been adopted.

Mark Gruberg: Has concerns about the Veteran's Cab settlement at the last meeting. Medallions are not being retrieved fast enough. In this case, the medallions are coming back as a block which will create problems for many drivers. The remaining medallions will move to a company with very little dispatch.

Thomas George Williams: If the ballparks give out free tickets they will get more business. Hilton said that they would not change the rules about tipping because the union Local 2 would oppose. The union said that it would not get involved unless a doorman got fired. In Kiev 5,000 drivers are on strike because of high gas prices.

Commissioner Gillespie: Local 2's endorsement would be necessary to get a new law.

Carl Russo: A lot of drivers will be affected by the loss to Veteran's of 8 medallions. Veteran's has a very good dispatch system. City taxi service would be hurt by the loss of its medallions.

Peter Witt: Wants to add his survey to all of his previously submitted surveys for use in the PC&N surveys. Commission should get more information from riders.

John Nakis: Yellow cab has placed an order for 44 new CNG taxis, and we have 15 new Ford Escape hybrids. We should provide taxi stops not stands, like bus stops. We should give more information to passengers about where to flag cabs.

Commissioner Smith: How many hybrids does Yellow have?

Nakis: There are thirty altogether with the new ones. The price of hybrids is higher than a Crown Victoria but we have to do it.

Carl Mc Murdo: Thanks Commissioner Smith for adjourning the meeting in honor of Herman Trinidad. We need information about how to reduce our driving requirements when we are disabled.

Commissioner Kwok: You can get information from Susan Mizner, the attorney, at Mayor's Office on Disability.

8 Funding an investigator position for Taxicab Commission by increasing fees on Driver Public Passenger Vehicle Permits (A-Cards) [DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]

Executive Director Heidi Machen: Commissioner Kwok requested that we study the possibility of creating an Investigator position and paying for it out of an increase in permit fees. The investigator would monitor and enforce rules related to the operation of unlicensed taxicabs and limos in San Francisco. Presently enforcement is performed by SFPD Taxi Detail. The Commission was created to relieve the Detail of administrative activities. Duties undertaken by Taxi Detail include training police at district stations to properly enforce taxi issues. Enforcement is a 24/7 job, so it makes sense to keep enforcement within the SFPD. We looked into a couple of similar

job classifications for this position. Another option would be to convert the existing 1840 position. I would like to ask the Taxi Detail to speak on this item.

Captain O'Neill, SFPD: The PD doesn't usually get involved in policy of other Commissions. ED Machen has begun to direct the Commission staff to take over more of the administrative functions which will allow the officers to be out on the street more. Without altering the structure, the same end result could be achieved. I would be concerned about the legal authority of this investigator on the street. There is extensive record-keeping that is required when someone has sworn legal duties.

Public Comment
Barry Taranto: Thanks the Commission staff for studying this issue. This position should make life less stressful for cab drivers. I suggest that the position should be some combination of Senior PCO and the Fare Inspector Supervisor with parking ticket authority but not arrest authority. They would call the police for arrests. They would file reports with PUC. A-card fees should be scheduled for June instead of January because it is easier to pay during the busy times.

Robert Cesana: Is puzzled by the job description. Doesn't want an investigator to police the cab drivers, just the illegal operators.

Thomas George Williams: These should only be to protect the industry from limos and outside cabs. Would support two positions

John Nakis: Doesn't want drivers to pay unless they get something for it.

Peter Witt: No enforcement will be done. Doesn't like the idea. Increase enforcement and fines. Has documented lots of illegal limos.

Nick Miller: Proud to be a native. 9/11 messed up the industry. We don't need to add an investigator. We need enforcement.

Mark Gruberg: How much authority could be granted to an Investigator? As much as possible would be ideal. If police take a role, it will be diluted by their other activities. Most drivers will support it.

Carl Mc Murdo: Investigator shouldn't focus on taxis, but on limos.

Commissioner McGuire: If we adopt options 1 and 2 would that allow us to fund the two investigators? The second option is most expedient, but would staff be able to function without the Jr Management position? What powers would they have? Doesn't want this to be an attack on cab drivers.

Dir. Machen: We could adopt options 1 and 2 if the Commission willed it. The role of the Jr Analyst position was largely to perform taxi audits which are presently performed by the Taxi Detail. Waybill enforcement was merely given as an example of the general categories of activity. There are many levels at which we could design this position, getting progressively more expensive. A position with arresting power would cost a lot more.

Commissioner McGuire: Are we going to decide on this tonight?

Dir. Machen: If you decide not to direct me otherwise, I will proceed to hire the Jr Analyst.

Commissioner Gillespie: Have we ever shifted a position from the Taxi Detail to the Taxi Commission?

Insp Suslow: We used to have four clerical positions, now it is two. We went from six sworn officers to five. Lots of work shifted to TXC then back to PD as TXC shrank. We should list all work to be done, then define who does which work.

Commissioner Gillespie: We have three or four empty positions. Wants a position that can make arrests. We need to build up the staff to enforce the rules. Positions are budgeted, so we shouldn't create a new position, yet.

Capt. O'Neill: You must have a sworn officer to make arrests.

Commissioner Smith: Can we use Police Specials?

Capt. O'Neill: They can't make arrests or stops. For infractions, try evaluating on a test basis through the 10-B program

Commissioner Smith: Are police considered to be on-duty 24 hours?

Capt. O'Neill: They become on-duty when they take action.

Commissioner Kwok: We didn't discuss arrest power. Investigator can gather info No intention to weaken the PD. Doesn't think that retired cops would want this job.

Commissioner McGuire: If we hire an 1840 position what could we do? Are we unable to do anything.

Dir. Machen: This is still at the draft stage. The PD is suggesting that TXC take more administrative duties so that the PD can do more enforcement. TXC has been short-staffed. We have three open positions. We can proceed with a better definition of the duties of TXC and the Taxi Detail.

Commissioner McGuire: All administrative duties would come to the TXC?

Dir. Machen: Yes, The Detail has investigators presently on the job.

Commissioner Gillespie: We must focus on clarifying the duties of the two offices.

Commissioner Kwok: Confident in the Executive Director. Let's give the TXC a chance to do our job so that the Detail can do more enforcement.

9 ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AS DISCIPLINE FOR DRIVERS AND MEDALLION HOLDERS IN VIOLATION OF RULES [REPORT AND POSSIBLE ACTION] Resolution 2005-69

Dir. Machen: The Hearing Officer attempted to take an unusual new step in suggesting that John Webb perform community service in lieu of a fine. Commissioners were concerned that we didn't have a procedure in place. We investigated using Project 20 as an alternative to monetary fines. People who owe fines are referred by Project 20 to volunteer agencies. There is also a DPW program that works with Project 20 to get people cleaning graffiti and sweeping the streets. In order to establish this program the Commission could consider this resolution to instruct the staff to develop the necessary program.

Carl Mc Murdo: Thanks the entire Commission and staff for the compassion to develop

this idea.

Mark Gruberg: As an alternative to fines there is attractiveness to this. How do we know that there is oversight on this? How much work would someone have to do to pay a fine?

Ruach Graffis: Suggests work at TXC for equivalent time?

Robert Cedana: It is old sick drivers who are vulnerable because they might not be well enough to drive.

President Jackson: These are viable honest organizations that will not allow fraud.

Commissioner Gillespie moved to approve Resolution 2005-69. Commissioner Breslin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith, Breslin, Kwok
NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

10 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
10a Public Comment
Mark Gruberg: Believes that this item is about two medallions owned by a dead person. Permits are not inheritable. Wonders why there is any reason to discuss this. Please take back these medallions as swiftly as possible.

10b Vote on whether to hold closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding King Cab et al v San Francisco Taxicab Commission, San Francisco Superior Court, No. CGC-05-441631. (CA Government Code § 54956.9(a); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d)(1).) [ACTION]
Commissioner Gillespie moved to enter closed session. Commissioner Kwok seconded. Motion passed 6-0

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith, Breslin, Kwok
NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

10c Conference with legal counsel in closed session regarding King Cab et al v San Francisco Taxicab Commission, San Francisco Superior Court, No. CGC-05-441631. (CA Government Code § 54956.9(a); SF Administrative Code § 67.10(d)(1).) [DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]
Commissioner Smith moved to enter closed session. Commissioner Kwok seconded. Motion passed 6-0

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith, Breslin, Kwok
NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

10d Reconvene in open session:
1. Possible report on action taken in closed session and the vote thereon. (CA Government Code § 54957.1(a); SF Administrative Code § 67.12(b).)
2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. (SF Administrative Code § 67.12(a).) [ACTION]

Commissioner Smith moved to not disclose discussions held in closed session. Commissioner Kwok seconded. Motion passed 6-0

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith, Breslin, Kwok
NOES: None
ABSENT: Paek
RECUSED: None

A minute of silence was held in honor of Herman Trinidad.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

November 22, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

NOV 18 2005

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1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consideration of the Minutes for the November 8, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Consideration of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Alternative Fuel Taxis [DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]
6. Staff Report [INFORMATION]
7. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
8. Audit of Taxi School Training Materials and Consideration of Additional Training Hours [DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]
9. Adjournment

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Taxicab Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting
November 22, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for consideration of Driver Public Passenger Vehicle permits to:

Houssien Alkanawi	Ja Gyi Aung	Jamang Bhote	Chris Bickel
Darryl Cole	Beyen Feraje	Djamol Gafurov	Gebrehiwot Gebrekidan
Tsehaie Gebrezghi	Anthony Hayes	Randell Hillard	Rami Iriqat
Bipin Koirala	Hung Lau	Archelaus Martin	Fabiano Michels
Sameh Moustafa	Mohammad Rafique	Irundy Ramos	Michael Reese
Robson Reis	Muhammad Saleem	Hoshgeldy Tachmuradov	David Truong
Brian Wynn	Chayawach Yimsamrarn		

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for consideration of Color Scheme Changes to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Vasilios Hristos Margianis	338	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
2. Thai Hoang Hong	1249	Arrow Cab to Union Cab

C. Discussion and possible consideration of new decal logo for KSJ Cab Company. Sample of logo available at Taxi Commission office and will be brought to the November 22, 2005 Commission meeting.

D. Recommendation of Taxi Detail for consideration to remove applicants from the Taxicab/Ramp waiting list after notice attempts:

Applicant Name	List #	Applicant Name	List#
Yale Brettschneider	5-049	Darryl Lum	6-099
Denvas Chiu	6-025	Philip Maguire	5-369
Stauroula Fanouriakis	6-097	Larry Ng	6-121
Ching Hom	6-096	Leonardo Oliveros	6-026
Roland Hom	6-020	David Romano	6-038
Anthony Inocencio	6-168	Shih Shui	6-054
William Kirkland	6-163	David Skinner	6-024

NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

A. The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the December 13, 2005 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEME:
Sam Dadu	*Brian Coates*	*N/A*
Jaime Moreno	*Adnan Atshan*	
Suleiman Qaisi		

COLOR SCHEME CHANGES:

Medallion Holder	*Cab #*	*Change*
1. Aboulghassem Khan Malmirchegini	*9052*	*Black & White to Union Cab*
2. George Lancia	*846*	*National Cab to Sunset Cab*
3. Getahun Assefa	*9064*	*Yellow Cab to DeSoto Cab*

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for consideration to remove applicants from the Taxicab/Ramp waiting list after notice attempts:

Applicant Name	List #	Applicant Name	List#
Charles Alhadeff	6-238	Mortimer Joyce	6-195
Sandra Broner	6-174	Stephanie Lewis	6-207
William Cheng	6-198	Al Linares	6-175
Anita Inocencio	6-169	Mbangi Luanzinga	6-196
Matthew Inocencio	6-170	Melvin Raudez	6-214

C. Consideration of the Taxi Commission to grant a time waiver extension to Charles Alhadess – Last extension: October 24, 2000.

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

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Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printin Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

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WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Pleas be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing o use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, se 67A.1)*

Taxicab Commission

November 22, 2005

MINUTES
Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
November 22, 2005
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Jackson; Breslin; Gillespie; Kwok; McGuire; Smith

ABSENT: Paek

PRESIDENT JACKSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Director Heidi Machen, Vicky Siu - Taxi Commission; Captain Thomas O'Neil, Inspector Farrell Suslow, Sergeant Vince Simpson, Lieutenant Jeannie Scholtz - Taxi Detail

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ROLL CALL - The Roll Call showed a quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE November 8, 2005 TAXICAB COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

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PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

4A Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4A (Public Passenger Vehicle Driver Permit). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

Approved Public Passenger Vehicle Driver Permits:

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments.

4B1 Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4B1 (Color Scheme Change for Vasilios Hristos Margianis). Vice Pres. Breslin seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: Gillespie

• Comm. Gillespie: Recused himself from Consent Calendar item 4B1.

4B2 Commissioner Smith motions to approve 4B2 (Color Scheme Change for Thai Hoang Hong). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

Approved Color Scheme Changes:

Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Vasilios Hristos Margianis	338	Luxor Cab to Yellow Cab Co-op
2. Thai Hoang Hong	1249	Arrow Cab to Union Cab

• Comm. McGuire: Asked if worker's compensation covers the medallion?
• Comm. Smith: Explained that the medallion is covered. Anyone, except for the medallion holder who drives that specific medallion, is covered and you could take that medallion and use it in a spare cab.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

4C Commissioner Smith motioned to approve 4C (New decal logo for KSJ Cab Company). Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

• Comm. Gillespie: Asked if the color of the taxi is the same as the color that's on

the logo.
• Comm. Smith: Confirms that the color of the taxi is the same as what's on the logo.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

4D Commissioner Gillespie motions to approve 4C2 (Removal of applicant names from the Taxicab/Ramp waiting list). Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Breslin, Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

Names of applicants that were removed from Taxicab/Ramp waiting list:

Applicant Name	List #	Applicant Name	List#
Yale Brettschneider	5-049	Darryl Lum	6-099
Denvas Chiu	6-025	Philip Maguire	5-369
Stauroula Fanouriakis	6-097	Larry Ng 6	6-121
Ching Hom	6-096	Leonardo Oliveros	6-026
Roland Hom	6-020	David Romano	6-038
Anthony Inocencio	6-168	Shih Shui	6-054
William Kirkland	6-163	David Skinner	6-024

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

5 Commissioner Smith motions to approve 5 (Resolution for Alternative Fuel Taxis). Commissioner
Gillespie seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

AYES: Jackson, Breslin, Gillespie, McGuire, Smith
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kwok, Paek
RECUSED: None

• Heidi Machen, Executive Director: This item arose in part because of the need to increase the rate of meter for taxicabs and Commissioner Gillespie also mentioned that we should increase the number of alternative fuel taxis so that the price of fuel, which was fluctuating at the time, became less of an issue. In an effort to move forward and give an incentive for more companies to invest in alternative fuel, we're looking at ways to do that. I've asked Doug Cameron from Clean Energy Fuels to present on this.
• Doug Cameron, Clean Energy Fuels: Presented a summary of what's in place now for the Clean Air Taxi Program. There are greater than 140 existing natural gas taxis in San Francisco. These cars drive over a million miles each month and consume over a million gallons of gasoline equivalent annually. This helps develop the infrastructure for additional taxis and shuttles and even the consumer market because there's such a big fuel load. Foreign oil dependency is a very big issue and this also improves San Francisco's air quality. It's also consistent with local, state and federal goals. A lot of these vehicles are coming of age. Ford stopped producing natural gas Crown Victoria's in 2004. To give you an idea of what's happening now, beginning in the 2006 model year and beyond, a company called Bockman Alternative Fuel Technologies picked up the ball when Ford left. They have now CARB certified the

2005 and 2006 Crown Vic. With fueling stations, the existing stations: 3rd/23rd-the CFN site was the first station, we completed our San Francisco Airport station in August of last year right in front of the United Airline's maintenance building. Oakland Airport station is very, very busy as well. But all of the stations are getting backed up so we have four new sites opening in the Bay Area this year. A long time ago, we completed agreements to build and on site fueling station at Yellow Cab. That will be open to other taxis as well. It's near the end of its permitting process, it's been held up in the City and County permitting office, I think it just has to go through fire and safety now. We're almost complete with the agreement for a new fueling station in Oakland's Jack London Square, another station near the BART station just outside the Coliseum in Oakland and another station that is currently for a garbage company but will be open to the public in the summer of '06 as well. This is purely intended to be an incentive to let it be easier for people to operate these vehicles. The goals are to reduce costs of alternative taxis to less than the traditional gasoline or diesel vehicle and maintain the life cycle cost below gasoline and diesel vehicles. We can even provide fuel price protection and we now provide natural gas vehicle financing for taxi operators.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

• Barry Taranto: Has concern about the letter from Bill Zeller. Says that they (PG&E) have shut us out at night from using the PG&E facility blaming everyone for the mishaps of a few. Hopes to get this resolved. Looks like it will be a while before Yellow Cab has the new fueling station. In the mean time, what do we do? I appreciate Mr. Doug Cameron's presentation and hopes that we can get PG&E to back down on the strict requirements.
• Thomas George-Williams: I drive a CNG vehicle. If you go north in the weekend or night time, you can't gas up. San Rafael is closed, the north part of the city is nothing so if you have a quarter of a tank and you get someone in the Marina going north, you can't take them. PG&E is a problem. I think your statement in the letter is a little weak. It says "Oh, we like it." But if you compare with other cities in the world, every single cab is CNG. Oakland airport requires every cab company to have 50% CNG. We're a little behind here.

• Philip Anton, Regents Cab Company driver: I also drive a CNG vehicle and I think the problem with alternative fuel is the limited range that's involved with the vehicle itself. Stems from the problem that we really don't understand natural gas. As a driver, you have to consider as you go along with your shift that I myself never let the car get half empty cause you never know when someone will get into your cab and you go outside the area, at least you'll have fuel to get back to the city as well. I think it's about your habit of driving alternative fuel and as we go along, you learn a little more with the fuel and vehicle itself.
• Robert Cesana, Yellow Cab: I was recently in Rio de Janeiro and at the airport they have natural gas. All the gas drivers use it. They have an additional advantage there because they have cars that use gasoline and natural gas. For reasons best known in the United States, we're not allowed to do that. It does remind me of the fact that the airport wants these clean air vehicles. It really has done an incentive that has done a disservice to us all. Should look into doing an incentive of saying 'Ok, natural gas is good, we need those credits. We will subsidize natural gas vehicles in a different way. Maybe by not going through the line but giving them a cheaper ticket or a free ticket instead of jumping the line.' I too would like to see either 100% either hybrid or natural gas in San Francisco.
• Mark Gruberg: I'm speaking for Thomas George-Williams and for myself. If you're driving a CNG cab, one incentive is you get extra year use out of cab so you can use it for five years instead of four. However there's also a mileage limit of 350,000 miles The application of the mileage limit, which has not been extended, limits the use of the vehicle in many or most cases to four years anyway so you can't take advantage of that extra year. I think it would be helpful if the Commission would give another

incentive by increasing the mileage limit for CNG cabs. For my own part, I noticed that in the presentation, the idea is that there would be no mandates. This would be done purely by way of incentives. For me, it's preferable to go by way of incentives if they work. But at a certain point, I think the Commission will have to look at mandates if the incentives don't work. I think the ultimate goal should be 100% clean air vehicles. If you can't get there by way of incentives then I think mandates are the proper way to go.

• Pres. Jackson: What type of time frame do you think we have to have to get there?

• M. Gruberg: To me it's a question of availability of vehicles. Right now I'm in the market for a new car. For several reasons I prefer to drive a van but there is no mini van available now. When I bought my first mini van I tried to convert it to natural gas. I just couldn't find someone to do it.

• Pres. Jackson: Would this take 10 years? 5 years?

• M. Gruberg: When a greater range of vehicles become available. I think its going to happen in the next 3-4 years. Probably within 5 years.

• Comm. Gillespie: He's fine w/the resolution but feels it's innocuous. The Commission has done many things with incentives and if we want to say again that we support the expansion of clean air vehicles, that's fine but I would like to get rid of word "alternative". It should explicitly say 'gas/electric hybrid' or Compressed Natural Gas vehicles. Has been seeing the words 'coming soon' since 1997 and there are fewer stations now than there were at the height of CNG. Feels the future is in hybrid vehicles. Doesn't think CNG gets us the carbon dioxide reduction that it takes. Wants a stronger and more specific resolution. We want a goal that the taxis have to meet the goal the city has to reduce carbon dioxide.

• Comm.Smith: Asked if there is another list of fueling stations.

• Doug Cameron: There is a current 2005 list available. You can see it on our website or on www.ngv.org.

• Comm. Smith: I know you're keeping within $0.25 to $0.50 cheaper than regular fossil fuel but I wanted to ask about LNG versus diesel. Can we use LNG instead of diesel?

• D. Cameron: Absolutely yes. I think Norcal Waste Systems here are a fine example of that-they've been pioneers in developing LNG. LNG is Liquid Natural Gas. LNG would not be anymore cost effective.

• Comm. Smith: How far are we from hybrid-CNG?

• D. Cameron: We're not in the vehicle development business but we see that as an excellent alternative. The auto manufacturers bare the burden of having to develop these products and it's an expensive event and they need some relief. To continue to add more options is a good thing. Maybe the oil companies should be subsidizing it?

• Comm. Smith: I don't know if we go 100% but I'd like to see 50% in next 5 years.

• D. Cameron: Seattle Tacoma has 100% requirement at the airport. Phoenix Sky Harbor has 100% requirement. LA has a 50% requirement. Denver has an incentive where feasible, they must be natural gas or electric. Dallas has 100% requirement. Salt Lake City has 50% reduction fee incentive. Oakland has 50% requirement for individual fleets. San Francisco only has 10% penetration. Part of that is economics. Lots of people want to do it but no one wants to pay. There's a fine line between rules and mandates. Rule 1194 for light duty fleets: if it's a rule, you still qualify for grant money. If it's a mandate, you don't qualify for any federal or state grants. If the Commission can do anything at the City level with the permitting process (for the Yellow Cab fueling station) it's been held up in permitting for a year. Once we have those permits, we should be open in 3-4 months.

• Comm. Gillespie: The resolution is fine, I would just change alternative to gas/electric hybrid or CNG. I would like resolution that would commit the taxi industry to a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from 1990 levels which is the goal of the City or developing that over 10 years and having yearly hearings on progress without mandating that each company must do such and such number. Asked if we could continue this.

• Dir. Machen: There's a reason why it says alternative fuel. Reason being we're talking about all kinds of alternative fuels not just gas/electric hybrid or natural gas

but maybe hydrogen for the future. Maybe there's a future for electric. With respects to doing a different resolution, this resolution is saying to the industry and to San Francisco Airport, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office that this Commission would like them to look into giving incentives for the expansion of alternative fuel vehicles. The resolution that Commissioner Gillespie has suggested is more of a Taxi Commission goal of making a particular percentage of the vehicles to be clean air vehicles. The distinction there, one, you're asking a couple of entities to give incentives. The other one, you're committing to a goal of making a portion of the fleet into clean air vehicles. These are two different resolutions. We could develop a second resolution.

• Comm. Gillespie: I do agree that they are two separate resolutions and I'd be fine passing this tonight. I just don't know if anyone would pay attention to it because it's so innocuous.

• Pres. Jackson: Asks for a motion.

• Comm. McGuire: Asked a question about, if it's voluntary it's more accessible to grant money but if we mandate something then we wouldn't be eligible for the grants. You said you'd like to move forward and mandate something so would that put us out of the running for grant?

• Comm. Gillespie: Tonight it wouldn't affect that.

• Comm. Smith: I think this is the beginning. Makes a motion to pass this resolution as is and come back and add to it as we go along. We need to keep this thing moving. Feels 'alternative' is all inclusive of all fuels.

• Comm. Gillespie: Seconds the motion.

6 STAFF REPORT

• Heidi Machen, ED: Gave an update on the meetings she attended, upcoming events and correspondences received and sent.

• Commissioner Smith submitted a couple items to calendar. He requested the Commission send a letter to DPT to change the sign at 18th/Castro to a 24 hour sign and put the sign up higher, making it more visible. Also, requesting Taxi Commission to ask DPT to put signage in front of 1231 Market letting taxi drivers know this is not a white zone or a taxi zone. This is a right turn only lane with a $270 ticket. The whole area is in front of the Ramada Hotel. I'll go ahead and take action on that with no objections. A request was made to calendar a discussion on start up color schemes and dispatch companies. Commissioner Smith's idea is that in order to open a dispatch or color scheme company, you must have 15 medallions. His final item was a request to calendar discussion on over flow calls in the dispatch room. He would like to see some sort of system that would make use of companies that have no business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Barry Taranto: Applauds the Executive Director for being vigilant at ISCOTT regarding the problem of providing cab service at street fairs. Maybe this Commission needs a resolution saying we need to provide cab service and cab drivers don't get tickets for that. Comments on Bill Zeller letter-the problem is requiring us to be there every hour on the hour is ridiculous. It worked better just calling the security guard when we were there. People who already respect PG&E are being punished when we didn't do anything wrong. Regarding Castro St. stand, I don't think it needs to be 24 hours. 50% or more of the time there are private cars parked there. MUNI is now giving drivers a ticket for being in the bus stop even though our cab stand is occupied by a private car. Also requested that staff change the sign to 'Tow Away'. States he cannot attend the Safety Hearing.

• Thomas George Williams: Regarding PG&E on Treat St. This is not a solution. Two weeks ago one station was out of gas somehow. Treat was closed and we went to 3rd/23rd St. That one was broken as well, only one worked and you needed a screw driver to attach it to the car. So we had a long line of cabs. If you couldn't do that, you had to go to the airport. If your car is not full enough, you're out of service.

That was not good. Also, PG&E is the only one who provides fleet cars to charge us so people without that can't go to 3rd/23rd St. They would have to use a credit card.
• Doug Cameron: We used to have a fleet card, we lost money on that. Affective December 1st, we're reintroducing the fleet card, it will be a little bit different but everyone can have a clean energy card provided we have debit card or credit card as back up. We will not pre-charge anything. Customers will use the fleet card and it's just like using a debit card-that night, those transactions from that day will download onto your account.
• Comm. Gillespie: Wanted to schedule a meeting in December about the changes happening from Veteran Cab to National Cab. I think there's a concern over the large number of transfers happening. I thinks people need to understand what's happening, there could be many drivers out of a job at the first of the year. So I would like to schedule an informational thing in the first meeting of December.
• Comm. Smith: Regarding the sign on 18th and Castro, maybe if night drivers came during the day and saw people waiting around in that area trying to get cab and drivers pulling into the bus zone trying to pick up and getting tickets at the same time...it should be a 24 hour stand because the Castro constantly has a flow of people.
• Comm. McGuire: Says she has the same experiences as Barry Taranto. You can't use the stand half the time because there's private cars parked there. The person who owns that business there is using it to park his own car. You will get a ticket if you are using bus zone. If you can just use the cab stand. I'm hoping they will make it a tow away.
• Mark Gruberg: At the last meeting, I brought up the issue of the Veterans permits and I've learned more since then. All 25 Veterans medallions will be leaving the Speck Company as of January 1st. Eight are slated to come back to city. 17 going to National Cab. As I understand, National will operate them as Veterans Cab. They're not intending to ask for a change of color scheme which would give the Commission some regulatory say in that. Without the color scheme change, the Commission may not have the authority to do much about that. However, there are 25 medallions going on a single day. 75-100 drivers' jobs are at stake here. Thinks all parties involved, Speck, Veterans and National as well as all drivers who want to be heard, should have an opportunity to be heard on this. That should take place at your next meeting, December 13th.
• Barry Taranto: He doesn't think National Cab is a concern. He thinks the concern is between the relationship between Speck Cab Company and the representatives of the 7 remaining share holders of the 17 medallions and why this is occurring. I'm concerned that the attorney representing these 17 medallions make sure that all drivers are involved. Some will go to Arrow and some will go to Veterans. The concern is also the name Veterans. It's been a house hold name in the city for decades. And the affect it will have on Arrow's business. National is just acting as conduit in this case.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT

• Barry Taranto: Thanked Supervisor Eslbernd for holding this hearing. Congratulated him on getting married and for following through on the limousine legislation. Also has solidarity with the Oakland drivers who were having a problem with Friendly Cab Company-they held a protest because Friendly Cab was gouging them with gates. Talked about the problem with the Hyatt Regency continuing to feed the town cars sitting on the property with airports while we sit there. There is a nice head security guard there and he does something about it. If we say something, we're going to get called into Sgt. Simpson and his colleagues and the Taxi Detail for saying something so the best thing for cab drivers to do when you take a passenger to the Hyatt Regency, tell your passenger the story of what's going on there. It's not fair that guests, unknowingly, are being enticed to take a town car.

• Thomas George-Williams: The limos are still a problem and we continue to be a

problem in this city as long as this problem exists. December 7th, we have the next protest in front of Grand Hyatt at 1 pm. Everybody is invited to join. Also, we saw two weeks ago that you didn't hire a private investigator. I wish you put it back on the agenda. In the mean time, UTW is offering the new members and existing, to dedicate $80 of their annual membership fee towards the limo fight. So maybe we will hire our own investigators if you don't do it.
• Yovanna Karolla: I just wanted to remind the Taxi Commission of their obligation to the ADA. They don't just provide ramp taxis for the purposes to be nice and generous. The reason for me saying this is because I had two experiences where the ramp taxis were more than an hour late. That's not quality. I wanted to notify the people responsible for this but I don't choose to drop names but the taxicab industry tends to question the credibility of consumers before they even lift a finger and say what they're doing wrong.
• Mark Gruberg: Spoke about the Veterans situation and regarding the Commission's decision to approve a settlement whereby eight medallions would come back on January 2nd and the other 17 medallions would stay out there. Most of them for years and some probably for several decades. United Taxicab Workers is appealing that to the Board of Appeals. Because of the nature of the jurisdiction of the BOA, there's a question about whether the BOA has jurisdiction over this appeal. Our request for the board to accept jurisdiction will be heard on November 30th at 5 pm, Room 416, City Hall. If they decide to take appeal, they will schedule a hearing on the appeal. This could have some implications on the return of the initial eight permits. If they do accept the case, I don't think it will come to them until January. If they decide in our favor, there will be further implications.

• David Basada, KSJ Cab: Wants to give his view on natural gas. He used to own pick up that ran on natural gas. But because of the advice of younger brother, he got rid of the truck the last decade for the reason that it's a floating bomb. The gas tank of the natural gas is so big and one electrical spark will hit the gas will make it explode. It's a cab which runs on natural gas is a rolling bomb. The tank in a taxicab of a natural gas is so big that it cannot accommodate one big luggage. I've witnessed this at the airport. A driver refused passenger because he has no room to accommodate the luggage. I hope my brother's words of wisdom will open up your mind.
• Robert Cesana: Regarding employing civilian inspectors to look at white zones and waybills. I apologize, I obviously don't speak American because everyone in this industry was talking about a civilian person but the reason why the debate was restricted was on the agenda item, there was no mentioned of that. This was somebody to work for the Taxi Detail or Taxi Commission. The Taxi Commission has got vacant spaces. I don't know what happens to the money from them but we invested $150,000 maybe $200,000 to get rid of the problem. Most public buildings have white zones and they are abused and no one does anything. If you're not willing to do this, we'll ask DPT to employ and asking the Taxi Commission to pay for this. This is our money. Would like to see an increase in the permits in order to pay for it.

8 AUDIT OF TAXI SCHOOL TRAINING MATERIALS AND CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL TRAINING HOURS

President Jackson motioned to continue the discussion of this item to the call of the Chair.

• Heidi Machen, Executive Director: Gave a brief introduction. Had put this item on the agenda at the request of Vice Pres. Breslin. Schools were asked to submit a sampling of materials they used. Minimum of 28 hours of training broken into course subjects that must include City geography, minimum of 8 hrs., Crime Prevention minimum 4 hours, Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety minimum 4 hours, Taxi Rules and

Laws minimum 4 hours, California Vehicle Code minimum 1 hour and Passenger Relations minimum 8 hours including procedures for transporting persons covered with the ADA. Vice Pres. Breslin's intent was to look at increasing customer relations, specifically customer service. I learned that Paratransit Coordinating Committee was looking into increasing the hours with ADA sensitivity training.

• Bill Hancock, Flag-A-Cab: Said adding more hours may add an additional day of training. Said they now have a van that their school uses for transporting students to the airport. This will be used for city tours also. He said they would be able to help the other schools take future drivers out for training. I can almost go with everything on here, but loves the thing about "Economic Benefits of getting a Short fare". I address that to Barry Taranto, get off the line. M.Y.A. is what we use in our class, simply means, Make Yourself Available. If you're moving around the city, there are hundreds of people looking for a cab.

• Mickey Kelly, Flag-A-Cab: He barely had chance to look at resolution. He thinks a total of 44 hours, example 8 hours walking or driving is something they started doing on their own. But thinks at this point in time, it might be a little excessive. Would like to get a chance to look at this and come up with a proposal of what we think would work.

• B. Hancock: I think we could put additional hours in there by adding an additional day and spending that whole day on the road. As far as class room, it's a matter of holding someone attention for that period of time. If this could be worked out, we're more than willing to do it.

• Pres. Jackson: How many students do you process on an annual basis?

• B. Hancock: 800 roughly.

• David Trotman, Cab College: In terms of some of the additional hours requirement and having people drive around the city, we already do that. Walking tours-I already have the tutorial materials to address that particular issue. I'd like to have an opportunity to look at some of the ADA materials and discuss some of the points as the issues come up. Surprised that they weren't in a position to have a collegial meeting for someone to take a look at what we do and to address any questions they may have. Thinks he could do in 28 hours what needs to be done. He would be willing to put his graduates against graduates from other training programs in San Francisco in terms of their abilities, examined and stay in the industry and make money.

• Pres. Jackson: How many students do you process on an annual basis?

• D. Trotman: 80-100

• Dave Doering, Cab College: On the geography component, we can certainly meet that. We are currently taking students to the airport and monster park. Similarly with hands on training for pre-shift inspection on a cab. We can expand that and are working on materials to incorporate into a walking tour. I don't know if documentation has been submitted as to the exact number of hours or form of training necessary. Example, geographic training orients you in terms of how streets run. In terms of destination locations, you need to know the cross streets, ideally you have visual recognition which can be taught with still shots. I hope the Commission considers putting together a formal working group to focus in on what that training is. To me the ultimate goal of cab driver training is competence. On ADA, the current ramp training is 4 hours. Expanding that may go beyond what average actual sedan driver needs. If we extend it, are we giving people a ramp certificate? Ramp cabs are roughly 5% of the cabs in San Francisco. In terms of the additional requirement of the year's experience teaching it, I would simply observe to this body Community Transportation Association the national certifying body that has developed and implemented the past certification program. Certifies that the individuals who've gone through that training are certified to train trainers. The goal is not just knowledge but also effective behavior. Effective behavior can be accomplished through many ways. We will work to meet whatever requirements the Commission chooses to impose.

• Ruach Graffis, Taxi Driver Institute: She's one of the people who actually made sure that this was part of the driver safety rules that was passed, 1147, in early '90s.

Drivers insisted on this law because we had four drivers killed in the space of 18 months. Drivers felt we needed safety stuff. Training is part of that and I'm dedicated to continue in training cab drivers. Says she taught in City College. Has started the Taxi Driver Institute and almost since the beginning when teaching at city college, she has had walking tour of various parts of San Francisco. We could increase the amount of time for this class. But it's already very expensive and takes most of the week: 4 days. It does seem to be a problem because she noticed that the other schools state their classes are 9-4, which means they're only 7 hours. The requirements are 28 hours, that doesn't mean break time. Rather than adding another 16 hours, if all the schools were required to do the 28 hours, that would add another 4 hours to instruction time. Having trouble with where the 44 hours came from-seems like an arbitrary number.
• Pres. Jackson: How many students do you process on an annual basis?
• R. Graffis: Because I'm not getting sufficient notification from all the cab companies, I would like your help to make sure that happens both from the Police and each cab company. At this point I'm doing probably 50-60 students/year.
• Mark Soto, Paratransit Broker: We are interested in emphasizing safety and creating standardization of information about Paratransit that's provided to drivers. To educate drivers about their responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act. To raise awareness about persons with disabilities. To expand knowledge about scrip, its proper use and handling and to heighten awareness about Paratransit with all SF taxi drivers. Wanted to make sure there's a distinction in the requirements for trainers so there could be a broad field of instructors. The intent of the PCC is that that specific component of material be covered. The outline that was provided is the outline of the important points. We specified specific videos that they should include in their training. I want to make one important distinction that this is not the training for ramp taxi drivers. They must take a separate 4 hour course. This curriculum is for all drivers and does not assume they will be ramp drivers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Barry Taranto: This issue has become highly political. It's not who teaches better, it's what's covered in the class and how the point is brought across to the students. It would have been good to see documents from the Taxi Commission showing an evaluation of all three classes. Thinks the Commission should evaluate the courses of all the classes. The Commission needs to decide on an emphasis on what needs to be taught and what drivers see everyday. Emphasize the areas that are going to affect the most drivers. Spending that much time on ADA is going to lose the forest through the trees. It's important to have sensitivity training but it shouldn't take away from other topics. It's important to do geography training. A lot of drivers don't know where they're going. Particularly the new drivers. It shouldn't say economic benefits but the benefits of taking the short fare.
• Thomas George-Williams: We all agree that we want to see some standards in San Francisco taxicabs, that's why teaching is important in this. Also testing by the Police Department is important but I don't see any adjustment in the test areas. If I compare with European cities, 44 hours is nothing. I would say 2 weeks, up to 70 hours and put some real stuff into it. Language skills, City skills, tourist stuff, behavior stuff and other stuff that belongs there. Also look who's teaching, it's good to see Mickey back.
• Cheryl Demico: I've been a trainer since 1990 teaching taxi when it was at 850 Bryant. On all 3 schools, on #1 they put ADA handouts. Every school is currently using that same 1990 ADA handout, it's time to update and modernize this section. One part of this she's concerned about is item #4 disability awareness-discussion and understanding various disabilities. I'm an Occupational Therapist and the original ADA handout used now was a result of a project action through the previous broker, CMG. It was a collective material of people with many disabilities. Has some concerns of teaching of what disabilities to be covered would be uniformed among all cab schools and wondered how the Commission would handle that cooperatively. She's already

researched and updated her own materials. I also cover the fraud issue and other issues that are of concern to the PCC. I'm cramming a lot into the 2-hour course.

• Pres. Jackson: Do you currently teach for one of these schools?
• Ms. C. Demico: For Flag-A-Cab.
• Mark Gruberg: Back in 1997 and 1998, when the mayor convened the taxi task force, one of the recommendations was a component of training that would put a new driver in a cab with an experienced driver so they would see what the work was like under the actual conditions. I think this should be considered again. As they say, there's no substitute for experience. I think this is worth consideration. 44 hours is an awkward period because it's hard to cram that into 1 week and do you really want to go over into a 2nd week. However if part of that 44 hours was a student going out with a driver, that might solve that portion of it. I really think it's important that all classes have fair and equal access to the new drivers coming into the industry because it's not happening now.
• Robert Cesana: We are training approximately 1000 drivers every year and most leave within 3-4 months. We're not retaining the drivers that we're training. We're charging a lot of money to look at an industry that they shouldn't be in the first place. I'm appalled at how bad some of the drivers are. I suggest you do the training in two parts and maybe do a day's training after six months or a year. We have an entry level job and every time you raise the cost of entry, you are going to get less cab drivers. When I got my A-card, I did it all in one day and that night I went out to drive. The way you get ADA has got nothing to do with training. It's got to do with compassion and you don't see those people on the streets.
• Comm.Smith: Regarding the short fares, in order to make money, you have to have the short fare, every time you click that meter, its $2.85 in your pocket. Regarding the 44 hours, as far as he's concerned is way too short. Thinks we need maybe100 or 150 hours. In Europe or England it's maybe 6 months before you get into a cab. No one mentioned anything about the outskirts. Geography, Candlestick Park, SBC Park's geography, there's also Seal Rock, South Beach, North Beach and Ocean Beach. There's neighborhoods within neighborhoods. Just in Mission alone or the Castro alone, Bernal Heights, Glen Park. We need to train drivers how to ride these orders. You have to have the knowledge on how to get there. It should be more than 16 hours on geography. Flag-A-Cab has volunteered their vehicle to take students out to different spots, that's a very good thing. It's not only disability it's older people at 24th/16th and Mission, Safeway, Cala...all these places have older people going shopping during the day that are calling for cabs constantly. Our company uses the system of riders that go after these but some companies don't answer these calls. Wants to triple this resolution. Knowledge is gateway to prosperity in taxi business.
• Comm. Gillespie: How many days a week do you teach your class and when does it start/end?
• Ruach Graffis, Taxi Driver Institute: Four days, Tuesday thru Friday, 9-5pm. When we're on our walk, they take their lunch break.
• Comm. Gillespie: On the section mandated as Passenger Relations, how long do you spend on issues related to disability? You've seen the proposal from the paratransit community. Is this redundant, new stuff can you accommodate these issues?
• R. Graffis: As far as I know, all the schools are required to use these two videos now. I was under the impression that this was the requirement. For disability awareness, I have examples of games to play for what its like with someone with cognitive disability.
• Comm. Gillespie: I want to ask you the same questions, what times do you meet, when do you start and end?
• Bill Hancock, Flag-A-Cab: We meet Monday thru Thursday, 9-4 pm. 20-30 minutes for lunch.
• Comm. Gillespie: The requirement is actually 29 hours in the California Vehicle Code. Everyone should incorporate that in their next session. How long does Cheryl's class last?
• B. Hancock: Usually it's about 2-2 ½ hours and the next day we rehash it and have

a test on everything.
• Comm. Gillespie: Do you see new information here? Are these things already being covered? Are there things that need to be incorporated into your program and if so, how much longer do you think that would take?
• B. Hancock: We don't want to be redundant. I think there's enough material. As to whether we can incorporate 16 hours of ADA sensitivity training, it will be difficult.
• Comm. Gillespie: I'm speaking about the proposal that was referenced by Mark Soto not the resolution.
• Cheryl Demico: There are a number of videos. There is no way to fit it in, I'm rushing/speed talking. Commissioner Kwok is one of the original people teaching this course in 1990. I'm covering that plus other issues that have come up over the years like fraud and explaining how the paratransit system works, etc. which was not required before. I definitely need more time.
• Comm. Gillespie: I want to ask you the same questions, what times do you meet, when do you start and end? What part of the customer relations covers the ADA and paratransit info?
• Dave Doering, Cab College: Day class is Monday thru Thursday, 9-4 pm. We have a 25-30 minute lunch place. Says his ADA material was not from 1990, it was put together for this class.
• David Trotman, Cab College: I teach the night class. The class begins Sunday at 1pm when we do the hands on and also meets in the evenings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Night class starts at 5 pm-8:30 pm. The students are there for much longer than a week, typically it takes 2-3 weeks because they work during day. I try to adjust my teaching schedule to when they can make it.
• Comm. Gillespie: How much of the time allotted for passenger relations covers paratransit and ADA?
• D. Trotman: In terms of the paratransit and ADA material, we have the past video which is over two hours and covers a multitude of different disabilities. In addition I give lecture a 45 minute lecture. Paratransit if this can be thought of as a proxy for the people with disabilities, this is about 3% of a sedan driver's business.
• Comm. McGuire: In Ruach's class and Cab College, who teaches paratransit training?
• Dave Doering: At Cab College, both Mr. Trotman and I teach, we are CTA certified.
• Comm. McGuire: You're certified and Ruach Graffis as well? Ok.
• Comm. Kwok: I would like to see all the teachers from different schools look into way to make the materials more standardized. I understand that you might need more hands on practice for the disability/paratransit part. I don't really think 3-5 extra hours would make a difference. But would like to see the ramp program enforced.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: I'm pleased to have brought this forward but I can't take all the credit. Asked about customer relation and customer courtesy. How much time do you spend on customer courtesy?
• Bill Hancock, Flag-A-Cab: That would be about four hours. We stretch it out, each day we're adding something to relationship. How do get along with a customer, what to do to provide better service. Teach course on customer safety and driver safety.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: What other materials do you have, teaching customer courtesy, besides the rules and regulations?
• B. Hancock: We have films on customer relations and working with people from paratransit. The 'Ten Commandments' is one of the films we show before Cheryl gets there. We have films on crime prevention and customer safety. There are a good set of films from Australia that I'd love to show you.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Cab College, under customer service, you have rules and regulations as a minimum standard, could you explain what that means?
• Dave Doering, Cab College: Cab drivers have to know the rules and regulations, if you go through on a rule by rule basis, most if not all are an attempt to codify a minimum standard of customer relation, I believe. For Example, 'Upon request a driver should change the channel, adjust the volume, turn off an audio video device.' That's simply a rule, know that that's the rule presumably will help you pass the test

but from that, I teach a substantial expansion into, 'here is how you use your radio in terms of customer service.' Part of the hook there is the role the tips play in the driver's income. That is an affective basis for teaching because you're using economic incentive to potentially modify behavior. Part of teaching customer relations is also cross-cultural training. We do show a film about customer relations.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Would I get a better feel for that if I were to look at your customer service materials that you pass out?
• D. Doering: You might. We have a separate teaching guide that we put together to be sure we're on the same page. If you look on the comments intended for teacher only, I think that might also give you a feel.
• Pres. Jackson: Have any of you been to these schools?
• Comm. Breslin: That was my intent but it got scheduled before. However this is helpful. Seeing where the schools are, to go and view portions of the segments, which I will do before I vote on the resolution.
• Comm. Gillespie: When all three of us started, it was four hours one day and four hours with the police. The Taxi Task Force with Supervisor Newsom recommended expanding that to 16 hours, at some point that changed to 28 hours.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Ruach Graffis, how much time do you spend on customer service training and what materials do you provide?
• Ruach Graffis, Taxi Driver Institute: It is integrated through the class. You didn't find it because it's everywhere. On first day, under mechanics of the job, customers-the same questions are endlessly interesting. Better service equals less stress and better tip. Below that, exercise using student partnerships finding hospitals and police stations, it's one of the things I tell drivers, every single trip, they should be able to say where on that trip they should go for the nearest hospital for medical help or police station. When they take their walk, they should notice wheel chair accessible restaurants and bars.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: Would it help if I ask City College group, if I saw some of your materials? I would like to see some materials and we can talk afterwards. Do you have films also?
• R. Graffis: Yes.
• Vice Pres. Breslin: I think that because customer service is part of the customer relations section, it gets short changed here. It gets short changed because there are either too many drivers on the streets who have never been through one of these fine schools or its not being taught. I'll tell you what I've exhibited from my own personal experiences. I have constant cell phone use from drivers, people who refuse to put my luggage in trunk. I take cabs a lot and I really questions the level of customer service training that we're getting at these schools. I respect what Mark Soto has done because he's made it very clear what the expectations are for teaching how to address ADA issues. We don't have something like that from the three schools of how to address our tourism industry. That's a whole different segment of people coming to our city and need to have the best courtesy coming towards them. At this point, we need to take a closer look at some of the schools and handouts and see what needs to be done. This is so important to our city. I also think there should be a 6 month retraining or an annual retraining.
• Comm. Smith: How much time do you spend on radio time? Learning how to use the radio, talking back and forth. It does intimidate the drivers.
• Bill Hancock: Radio time is not something we're required to do. Yellow Cab and Luxor use a computer based system. The other companies use voice dispatching. We do a simulated action of what it's like and we are in the process of having a radio put into the van so when we're on the road, the drivers will know how to answer a call and work a meter as well.
• Comm. Smith: I ask because there are 700 medallions or more in different companies that are not digital dispatched. I'd like to ask Cab College the same question.
• David Trotman: As part of the curriculum at Cab College, we have not dealt with this explicitly. We do not know whether the student will be working with computers or with the radio dispatch. I think this is handled by the hiring companies.

• Comm. Smith: I think this is very important to go over this because the radio is intimidating to new drivers.
• Ruach Graffis: The second day we start out at an outdoor café to examine cars as they go by taxis. We look at a ramp van, I flag down a cab and we take a look into the radio and listen to it. When we go back in, I have a scanner and they listen to the scanner. The students practice what they would do. I do a training film from Boston and after the film, we talk about radio business. I have the scanner on 2 or 3x during the course. We also have copies of two different procedures from two different companies.
• Comm. Gillespie: I though I heard Commissioner Breslin say that she wants to review more before voting on anything tonight. That's what I'm for also.
• Comm. Kwok: The radio skill is very important. It doesn't matter if only 5 or 10% of the cabs on the street are using the radio because that is for emergencies. We are a big city in the United States and are facing earthquake and tourist attacks.
• Bill Hancock: You gave me an idea that I didn't think about. Since Cheryl is there once a week, we can now bring the drivers out to understand the tie down and putting a wheel chair in. We can incorporate that into our class.

• Comm. McGuire: I would like to see an evaluation of staff, no one has attended these schools. I would like to see something like that as well. All curriculums are all excellent but different. Maybe we want to standardize a curriculum? The idea of the 44 hours carries the class into the next week, so I'm wondering about how they're going to adjust this.
• Pres. Jackson: As we continue this, we can think about a multitude of issues, everyone has continuing education, maybe we can incorporate that. Will continue this item to next the meeting.

9 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Siu
Principal Clerk

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN C. NEWSOM

HEIDI MACHEN
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: **INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS**

FROM: **HEIDI MACHEN**
Executive Director

DATE: **NOVEMBER 15, 2005**

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL PUBLIC AND TAXI DRIVER SAFETY HEARING**

On **Thursday, December 1, 2005,** at **City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 408 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**, you are invited to attend and speak at the San Francisco Taxicab Commission's *Annual Safety Hearing*. Municipal Police Code §1147.3(a) states that the Taxicab Commission shall hold an annual hearing to review the effectiveness of current safety equipment and safety measures and consider ideas to reduce crimes and to protect the safety of both the public and working taxicab drivers.

If you cannot personally attend, you may share your thoughts on safety and the taxicab industry via mail or email received not later than December 2, 2005 at:

Taxicab Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Ste. 420
San Francisco, CA 94102

sftaxi.commission@sfgov.org

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

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TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

ARTHUR JACKSON, PRESIDENT, ext. 1
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT, ext. 4
PAUL GILLESPIE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 2
MICHAEL KWOK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 3
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

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December 13, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

/13/05

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consideration of the Minutes for the November 8, 2005 Taxicab Commission Meeting. [ACTION]
4. Consideration of the Consent Calendar. [ACTION]
5. Controller's Report on Meter and Gate Rates [INFORMATION]
6. Staff Report [INFORMATION]
7. Essential Eligibility Requirement [INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION]
8. Report on the Annual Public and Taxi Safety Hearing [INFORMATION]
9. Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items not on the agenda).
10. Adjournment

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CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for consideration of Public Passenger Vehicle Driver permit to:

Hazma Algahim	Ibrahim Algahim	Abdulfatah Alowdi	Merkeb Bayuh
Abdulrahman Belamesh	Mohammed Cadi	Luke Cosmos	Eskinder Daba
Luisdimas DaSilva	Ozkan Dere	Abdelaziz Essaber	Eskindir Ghebremidhin
Ana Gomes De Castro	David Hall	Wo Huan Zhu	Michael Hunter
Jacky Lin	Scott Marshall	Haroon Marzi	Michael McCord
Abdelwasie Mohammed	Anthony Montoya	Abdulhafeez Nasher	Richard Ng
Anthony Peeters	Mohammed Salim	Renato Santana	Salai Soe
Wai Sun Kui	Chakrit Talasopone		

B. Recommendation of the Taxi Commission for consideration of Color Scheme Change to:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Aboulghassem Khan Malmirchegini	9052	Black & White to Union Cab
2. George Lancia	846	National Cab to Sunset Cab ***(Postponed)**
3. Getahun Assefa	9064	Yellow Cab to DeSoto Cab

C. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for consideration of Taxicab Medallion Holder Permit to:

Taxicab Permit Holder	Cab#	Color Scheme
1. Sam Dadu	728	Yellow Cab
2. Jaime Moreno	513	Yellow Cab
3. Suleiman Qaisi	526	Royal Cab

D. Recommendation of the Taxi Detail for consideration of Ramp Taxicab Medallion Permit to:

Ramped Taxicab	Cab#	Color Scheme
1. Brian Coates	9004	Luxor Cab
2. Adnan Atshan	9070	DeSoto Cab

E. Consideration of the Taxi Commission to grant a second time waiver to Charles Alhadeff

F. Recommendation of Taxi Detail for consideration to remove applicants from the Taxicab/Ramp waiting list after notice attempts:

Applicant Name	List #	Applicant Name	List#
1. Charles Alhadeff*	6-238	6. Mortimer Joyce*	6-195
2. Sandra Broner	6-174	7. Stephanie Lewis	6-207
3. William Cheng	6-198	8. Al Linares	6-175
4. Anita Inocencio	6-169	9. Mbangi Luanzinga	6-196
5. Matthew Inocencio	6-170	10. Melvin Raudez	6-214

*Applicant(s) has submitted time waiver request.

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NOTICE

This is not an agenda item for this meeting, but serves as a public notice

A. The following individuals have filed and completed applications for Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits, Ramped Taxicab Medallion Holder Permits or Color Scheme Changes which will be reviewed and considered on the January 10, 2006 hearing: (copies of the applications are available for review at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm).

1. TAXICAB PERMIT HOLDER:	RAMPED TAXICAB:	NEW COLOR SCHEM
1. Spanky Woods	1. Casey Chan	N/A
2. Philip Anton		

2. COLOR SCHEME CHANGE:

Medallion Holder	Cab #	Change
1. Abbas Burt Saatsaz	1281	Town Taxi to YellowCab
2. Yolanda Cavaleri	153	RoyalCab to Union Cab
3. Giuseppe Carvelli	527	Royal Cab to Union Cab
4. Firouz E. Mahdavi	419	Regent Cab to Union Cab
5. Le Yen	1209	Luxor Cab to Union Cab
6. Faramarz Golshan	398	Arrow Cab to Union Cab

B. Consideration of the Taxi Commission to grant a time waiver or second time waiver to:
1. Thomas Poon (second request)
2. Danny Poon (second request)
3. Mortimer Joyce
4. Mekonnen T. Areda

Public Comment may be limited to two minutes for a specific item number depending on the number of speakers. Copies of the Commission's "Procedures for Protesting the Prospective Issuance of a Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Permit (Medallion)" are available upon request at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458, each Business day from 9am to 4pm (Documents distributed are in parenthesis) Copies of obtainable documents may be viewed or obtained at the San Francisco Police Taxicab Detail, 850 Bryant Street, Room 458.

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ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment on an agenda item may do so by calling (415) 554-9632 during the meeting. When the item you wish to comment on is heard, you must state at that time you wish to speak.

Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters and/or sound enhancement systems will be available. Please contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

Upon request, minutes of meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during a meeting, pleas contact Sonya Banks at (415) 503-2180, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late request will be honored if possible.

Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities may call Sonya Bank at (415) 503-2180 to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.

The closest accessible BART station is located in the Civic Center at Market and Eighth Streets. Accessible MUNI lines servin this location are Nos. 42 and 90. For information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142.

Accessible parking is available at the following locations: two (2) designated blue curb spaces on the southwest corner McAllister Street at Van Ness Avenue; and the Performing Arts Garage (entrance on Grove Street between Franklin and Goug Streets, immediately behind the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils an other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberatior are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your righ under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinanc contact Adele Destro, Interim Administrator by mail to Sunshine Ordinance Task force, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodle Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by e-mail at sotf@sfgov.org
Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Adele Destro or by printin Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at http://www.amlegal.com/sanfran/viewcode.htm

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be require by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbyin activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Va Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317; web site: sfgov.org/ethic

WARNING

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing devices are prohibited at this meeting. Pleas be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing o use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices. *(San Francisco Administrative Code, se 67A.1)*

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Interested Parties**

From: Vicky Siu
Office Coordinator

Date: December 8, 2005

Re: **December 27, 2005 Taxi Commission Meeting Cancelled**

Please be advised that the December 27, 2005 Taxi Commission Meeting is **cancelled**. We will resume regular Taxi Commission Meetings in 2006. We hope you have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

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